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Japan

U.S. Congress Democrats' Trade Bill Criticized

OW0705233792 Tokyo KYODO in English 2327 GMT 07 May 92

["U.S. Democrats Introduce Trade Bill Targeted on Japan"—KYODO headline]

[Text] Washington, May 7 KYODO—Senior Democratic Congress members Thursday introduced a wide-ranging trade bill calling for opening the Japanese rice market, curtailing Japanese car sales in the United States, and other measures targeted primarily at Japan.

The 1992 Trade Expansion Act, submitted by Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, marks the most comprehensive effort on Capitol Hill to address politically sensitive trade issues in the presidential election year.

The bill "recognizes the problems facing our country in international trade and mandates that the President finally begin to deal with them," said House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt, who joined Rostenkowski in submitting the omnibus trade bill.

The bill, a summary of which was made available to the press, contains 24 major sections, nine of them addressing bilateral trade issues with Japan, the nation with the single largest trade surplus in the world as well as in bilateral trade with the U.S.

Major Japan-related provisions include:

—Extension of the so-called "Super 301" authority for five years, from 1991 through 1997.

The provision, which expired in 1990 under the terms of the 1988 Trade Law, requires that the administration identify "major barriers and trade-distorting practices" among U.S. trade partners each year and mandates trade negotiations under the threat of retaliation.

The Bush administration has said it is opposed to such "straitjacket" legislation.

—Opening rice markets in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

The bill requires that the administration negotiate with the three countries, either through the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks or on a bilateral basis, on access to their virtually closed rice markets.

The administration is also required to report to Congress the outcome of the negotiations by March 1 next year.

—Increased access of U.S. automobiles and auto parts to the Japanese market.

The bill requires that the administration work out an agreement with the Japanese Government to allow more sales of U.S. automobiles in Japan and increased sale of U.S. auto parts to the Japanese auto makers.

This provision stems from charges levied by U.S. automakers and parts suppliers that the Japanese auto market is largely closed to foreign competitors as a result of collusive and exclusionary business practices in the Japanese auto industry.

—Capping Japanese auto sales in the U.S. at 1992 levels with restrictions applying to both imports from Japan and those produced in the U.S. by Japanese-owned factories.

This provision, which incorporates an auto trade bill submitted earlier by Gephardt, requires that the administration negotiate such a "voluntary restraint arrangement" with Japan for a seven-year period from 1993 through 1999.

Japan announced last month that it will limit auto exports to the U.S. to 1.65 million units in fiscal 1992, under the so-called "voluntary restraint arrangement" in force since 1981.

The auto-trade restraint requirement under the Rostenkowski bill goes beyond this export arrangement.

The Japanese-owned "transplant factories," set up since the mid-1980s, churn out about 2 million cars in the U.S. each year.

Rostenkowski said the sales restraint measure is necessary to "allow some breathing space for U.S. manufacturers," which have steadily lost ground in the domestic market to Japanese carmakers.

The auto-trade section of the bill provides that Japanese car sales in the U.S. market would be allowed to grow only "to the same extent as U.S. exports of automobiles to Japan," Rostenkowski said.

"We must aggressively pursue the elimination of trade barriers around the world which restrict access to U.S. exports and pursue the golden rule of trade, 'do unto others, as they do unto us,'' he said in submitting the bill to the House of Representatives.

U.S. Urged To Halt Move To Ban Foreign Banks

OW0805063992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0557 GMT 08 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 8 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Friday he has sent a letter to his American counterpart in a bid to stop U.S. moves to prevent foreign banks from opening new branches and engaging in business in new areas.

Hata said he urged Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady to oppose the move to legislate a bill that Japan's Finance Ministry sees as targeting Japanese banks in the United States.

"It is improper that special treatment is discussed in the U.S. Congress against a particular country, and I wrote the treasury secretary to oppose such a move," Hata told reporters after Friday's cabinet meeting.

The bill, known as the Fair Trade in Financial Services Act, would restrict financial institutions of countries accused by the Treasury Department of discriminating against U.S. financial firms from starting new business in the U.S. market and opening new branches.

Armitage Urges Aid to Central Asian Republics

OW0805001992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0010 GMT 08 May 92

[Text] Washington, May 7 KYODO—The top U.S. official handling aid to the former Soviet Union urged Japan on Thursday to boost aid to central Asian republics but backed Tokyo's stand on withholding large-scale assistance to Russia until a territorial dispute is settled.

"The Japanese attitude toward assistance to the former Soviet Union is understandable," Richard Armitage said.

Armitage, the operational administrator of U.S. assistance to the newly independent former Soviet states, was interviewed on the U.S. Information Agency's Worldnet television program.

He said he "can see clearly" that Japan is looking for a breakthrough in its territorial dispute during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's scheduled visit to Japan in September.

"I think that the question of large amounts of aid to the Russian Federation is probably dependent on the outcome of that series of talks," Armitage said.

The dispute over what Japan calls the northern territories—a string of islands off northeastern Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II—has led Tokyo to withhold any major bilateral assistance to Russia, which now controls those islands.

The U.S. backs Japan on the territorial issue and has urged Russia to return the islands.

"We have consistently, at every opportunity, raised the question of the four northern islands and made it very clear to the former Soviet Union and to the present Russian Federation our views on this matter," Armitage said.

Beyond Russia, he said, the central Asian republics "are worthy now of Japanese assistance."

Armitage said he hopes Japan would work out a bilateral aid program with the central Asian republics, or use Turkey, a Muslim country, as a "role model" to help in the development of the largely Muslim-populated former Soviet states.

Hun Sen: Tokyo Peacekeeping Bill Would Help

OW0805064792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0547 GMT 08 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 8 KYODO—A bill allowing Japan's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations would help restore peace in Cambodia and the Asian region, Cambodian Premier Hun Sen told visiting Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida on Friday.

Hun Sen avoided reference to Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) during the one-hour meeting in the Cambodian capital, but said personnel of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) need to carry weapons because of armed bandits in the countryside, Komeito officials added.

"Carrying weapons is also meant to prevent accidents," Hun Sen was quoted as saying.

Citing the examples of Germany and Canada, Hun Sen indicated it is also possible to contribute medical supplies and transport.

Komeito, Japan's second-largest opposition party, supports the early enactment of a government-proposed bill that would expand the scope of Japan's role in U.N. peacekeeping activities, but wants to shelve temporarily the bill's provision that would permit participation by SDF troops in such operations.

In April, Ishida proposed that the Diet discuss an amendment to the bill that would require prior Diet approval for sending SDF troops for such purposes.

Hun Sen also told Ishida that Japan should raise its contribution to the costs of the UNTAC from 12.45 percent to 30 percent.

Ishida promised Hun Sen two water trucks and 10 buses for the transport of refugees, the officials said.

Komeito on SDF Logistical Support Participation

OW0605223892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1411 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Bangkok, May 6 KYODO—The chief of Japan's No. 2 opposition party said Wednesday that his party approves letting the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) participate in logistic support for U.N. peacekeeping force.

Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Komeito, made the remark at an interview at a Bangkok hotel with the English-language BANGKOK POST, said party officials accompanying Ishida to Thailand.

"Although Japan can not join (frontline) U.N. peacekeeping force for the time being, it is necessary to consider using the SDF to provide logistical support (to the U.N. peacekeeping force)," Ishida was quoted as saying.

"Logistical support can not be regarded as military activities and should be approved of," he was quoted as saying.

Komeito, along with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, approved a bill in the House of Representaties last December to allow SDF personnel to join U.N. peacekeeping operations overseas. The bill is pending before the House of Councillors.

Komeito has proposed temporarily freezing Japan's participation in U.N. peacekeeping forces.

The LDP has been trying to woo Komeito into its fold to form a majority in the opposition-controlled upper house.

Ishida cited medical services, telecommunications and transportation as areas of permissible logistical support, the officials said.

Ishida told the daily "I am convinced Japan can sufficiently (?contribute) to the international community even if Japan does not dispatch its SDF to join U.N. peacekeeping force," the officials said.

Foreign Minister on Opposition's SDF Demand

OW0705143092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1420 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe indicated Thursday that the government may accept an opposition party's proposal not to have Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel participate in some areas of U.N. peacekeeping operations.

During a special panel of the House of Councillors on the controversial bill, Watanabe said there are two fields of U.N. peacekeeping operations—one branch which requires use of arms and another which would probably not.

Watanabe said the government is ready to consult over the distinction regarding Japanese troops participating in U.N. peacekeeping activities once the Diet decides its position.

Watanabe suggested accepting a proposal not to have the SDF join U.N. peacekeeping forces in monitoring disarmament operations and patrols of buffer zones, but asked the panel to approve SDF participation in logistic support operations, such as medical services, telecommunications and transportation.

The second-largest opposition party, Komeito, has proposed temporarily freezing Japan's participation in U.N. peacekeeping forces with regard to the government-proposed bill.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has been trying to woo Komeito into its fold to gain a majority in the opposition-controlled upper house.

Program Views International Contributions, SDF

OW0705233492

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 3 May carries a 150-minute special program, entitled "International Contributions and the Self-Defense Force; Japan Compelled To Make a Choice With the Cold War Ended," to mark the Constitution Day of Japan and to discusses Japan's contributions to the international community.

NHK commentator Korehito Obama opens the program, explaining its purpose, and announces: "The cold war between the two camps—East and West—has ended, but turmoils and confusion continue at various places. In the midst of all this, probes and efforts are being made to build a new world order. Japan is being asked to make a decision on two issues— what international contributions it should make and what it should do about its security. Particularly, on the issue of Japan's international contributions, very heated discussions are currently taking place.

"There is agreement among the general public that Japan's international contributions should center around economic cooperation and technological assistance. As to whether Japan should be more active and should contribute its personnel, more specifically whether the country should actively participate in the UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, the public views are divided over the issue of whether the Self-Defense Force [SDF] should be used or not. On top of that, there is the issue of whether such SDF use is constititonal or not. Today is the 45th Constitution Day. Japan is being asked to make a decision on how it should balance its Constitution and the issue of what contributions it should make to the world."

These opening remarks by commentator Obama are followed by audio explanation with the aid of video footage on the general theme and the composition of this program. First, the video footage shows scenes of SDF soldiers marching in formation and undergoing training, as well as scenes of Vladivostok Port which the NHK team covered recently. An announcment says:

"Part 1—The SDF at a Crossroads—deals with the question of what should be done about the defense policy of Japan, and how the SDF should be tied to the new task; that is, the international contributions. The SDF is now at a major crossroads. In this Part 1, Mr. Kensukes Ebata, a military commentator who visited the Pacific Fleet of the former Soviet Union recently, reports on how the threat from the north has changed since the end of the cold war. You will also hear reports on the United States' world strategy, and then we will think about what the SDF should do in the future in this dramtically changing situation in the world."

Then, the video cuts to scenes of NHK interviewing Ichiro Ozawa, former general secretary of the Liberal

Democratic Party [LDP], and Takako Doi, former chairperson of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], while the announcement continues:

"In Part 2—the Constitution and Japan's Future Course of Action—Mr. Ichiro Ozawa, former general secretary of the LDP, says the participation of Japan in the UN forces is possible even under the current Constitiion, and insists that Japan should make active contributions toward world peace, and Ms. Takako Doi, former chairperson of the SDPJ, says the dispatch of SDF troops overseas will violate the Constitition, and insists that now is the time to explain to the world the ideals of the peace Constitution. You will view interviews with these two polemicists who represent the conservatives and reformists respecitvely."

the video then shows a scene of roundtable talks held at an NHK studio, and the announcement continues:

"In Part 3—Stands of Political Parties, and Choice of Japan—policymakers in political parties and Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato will discuss the PKO Bill now being deliberated in the Diet and also ways Japan should make international contributions."

With this, the introductory announcement concludes. The video returns to commentator Obama who is seen standing on a deck of a Maritime SDF vessel at Sasebo Naval Base.

Obama says he is there to see a naval exercise, and recalls how the SDF was created following the breakout of a war in Korea. He notes that Japan has since continued to improve its defense capabilities from the stand of regarding the Soviet Union as a potential enemy, and adds that "the Soviet Union was dissolved last December and a curtain came down on the cold war."

He continues: "What is now the state of the former Soviet Armed Forces in the Far East which used to be a threat to Japan? We will begin Part 1 with a report on the Russian Pacific Fleet."

The video shows a map of the Far East area giving locations of Vladivostok where the Pacific Fleet Command is and Khabarovsk where the Far East Armed Forces Headquarters is. Meanwhile, a voice says: "The organizations which we were permitted to visit by the Supreme Command of the former Soviet Armed Forces this time were the Pacific Fleet in Vladivostok and a tank unit under the Far East Military District in Khabarovsk."

As the voice of an announcer goes on, the video shows an aerial view, as well as close-ups, of the Vladivostok Port where Soviet naval vessels are seen lined up. The 10,000-ton class cruiser Petropavlovsk, "capable of carrying nuclear missiles," is shown. A flag-raising ceremony is seen held on its deck. The video cuts to an overall view of the Pacific Fleet Command building, and then the inside views of it. A staff meeting is seen being held, presided over "by a deputy commander."

While the video is showing the staff meeting, the voice of an announcer says: "With the end of the cold war, the former Soviet Armed Forces are now undergoing drastic reductions. The Pacific Fleet withdrew all of its main vessels from Cam Ranh in Vietnam last year. According to the deputy commander, exercises are now conducted only in the Russian coastal areas for the purpose of defending national territories."

The announcer then refers to reports on the Defense White Paper of Japan pointing out drastic reductions of vessels, aircraft, and Army divisions of the Russian forces since 1989. The video returns to scenes of the Vladivostok Port, and an announcer says: "When a reporting mission visited Vladivostok in April, there were more than 100 naval vessels. This time, we went to see the state of the vessels there together with Mr. Kensuke Ebata, military commentator, whom we invited to join our team."

Mr. Ebata says: This is an amphibious craft of the Ivan Rogov class. This can carry not only landing infantry troops—what the United States calls Marines—but also tanks and helicopters. The gate at its front slides open, making it possible for tanks to move out of it and land directly. As such, if combat forces were to land in Hokkaido, it was thought that this vessel would be among the first group of them. In other words, this vessel has been much talked about as the one of those posing a threat to the defense of the north. But as we see here, the coating on this ship has faded. It appears that this one has not been in operation for a long time. Of course, this could be under repairs. Still, it will take several months for it to become operational."

Video then shows a different ship, and Ebata continues: "The big dome on this ship contains radar equipment. This vessel called a missile-satellite tracking ship is a relatively new ship completed in 1983. This is a ship designed to track missiles launched by submarines or from land. But the coating on it has come off in considerable parts. Of course, paint is taken off when a ship is under repairs. But as far as we saw from outside in general, the ship has not been in use or has been in a maintenance service for a relatively long time. It is highly probable that this ship will become mothballed because of financial problems."

Then another vessel comes into view, and Ebata goes on: "This ship is a frigate of the Krivak class. This type of vessel is a relatively new surface vessel built in the 1970's and 1980's. But as you see, the coating on it has come off, and there are dents here and there. As seen from outside, there are no missile launchers or guns installed on it. As seen here, this is completely in a state of scrap. This was a surprise to me. As far as I could see, 60 percent of the larger vessels in Vladivostok were not operational. Only 30 to 40 percent were seaworthy."

The video then cuts to another kind of vessel, and Ebata explains: "On the other hand, will you look at these relatively new missile corvettes of the Tarantul class used in coastal defense? I felt that the modernization of vessels for coastal defense, such as these, was being carried out very well."

Then, the video shows a jeep arriving on a dock for submarines, and an announcer explains: "This time, our reporters were permitted to cover submarines and were taken to their base. The base was at a small bay off the central part of Vladivostok. The real conditions of the former Soviet sumbarines have so far been hidden behind veils. Our reporters were permitted to take pictures inside a submarine—something which is never done even in the Western nations."

The video shows Ebata boarding a submarine and climbing down into it. While the video shows him looking around inside the vessel, Ebata explains: "The one we visited was a conventional power-type attack submarine which the Western countries call the Kilo class. This is the newest Soviet submarine put into operation only in the 1980's. At 3,000 tons, this is among the largest of the conventional power types in the world. "This is the command center from where the captain commands and steers the ship. As I walked around, I noticed that there were few computer monitors as seen in Western vessels. This is the steering post. In Western submarines, you would see computer monitors such as those seen in television games. Here, all I could see were six measuring instruments. In Western submarines the navigators have the so-called inertial navigation systems to aid their navigational judgment. The systems are common in the submarines of Western nations. But the people on the vessel told me they do not have such a system on it. Seeing all the parts in general, the outward shape of the vessel is of the newest type of the 1980's, but the inside parts were those of the 1960's. What surprised me in particular was this periscope. This had neither an infrared viewer nor a video tape recorder. This is as simple as those used during World War II.

"This is a sleeping cabin for crew members. With beds in three stacks, it looks small. Cabins in Western countries' submarines are just as small. But folding type beds are not used in Western countries. Their submarines use fix-type beds. These beds can be said to be old fashioned. What surprised me more was that wood was used in living quarters and other areas of the vessel. For instance, this is the captain's cabin. The locker and the desk there are made of wood. Wood burns easily. Fire is most dreaded on a submarine. Western nations have strict rules against using wood in submarines."

The Video cuts to an overall view of the area of the submarine base where a number of submarines in poor state are seen docked. An announcer explains: "On this base we could not find any nuclear-powered submarines which can carry nuclear missiles and operate around Japan. According to an explanation given by the base commander, all nuclear-powered submarines which used to be in Vladivostok have been removed to Petropavlovsk, the naval base on the Kamchatka Pensinsula."

Commentator Ebata is shown on the screen, with the rusted submarines seen in the background, and says: "All these are out of service. I am a little surprised. It has been said that most of the submarines of the Pacific Fleet were in Vladivostok. The submarines numbered 130 at a peak time, and there are now supposed to be about 95 of them. Until very recently it was said that more than a half of them were in Vladivostok. But as far as I see here, there are only about 10 of them. And out of the 10, I can see only two or three to be operational. Behind me there are six lined up, but all of them are unoperational. However I may look at them, I foresee no other choice but for them to be scrapped. Even repair work cannot restore them to become operational. Although it has been said that the submarine unit is the most vital part of the Soviet fleet in Vladivostok, it can definitely be said that its force has diminished greatly."

The video shows a view of the bay where a submarine is seen abandoned and submerged. While the camera is on the scene, an announcer says: "In Vladivostok, many vessels were seen abandoned."

A four-story building appears on the screen, and while the video shows views and operations of the shipyard, an announcer reports: "This is the (Dalzavod) shipyard, the largest in Vladivostok which is in charge of maintenance and repair of the vessels of the Pacific Fleet. The biggest problem faced by this shipyard is the shortage of parts and materials needed for repair work. In the days of the socialist economy, the Soviet Union had assigned much of production of repair parts to its Eastern allies like East Germany and Poland. However, after these nations shifted to a market economy, the currency of payment has been changed from the ruble to foreign exchange. With foreign exchange reserves lacking, the shipyard has no funds to secure needed parts."

The video cuts to a uniformed officer named Ryzhkov, public relations officer of the Pacific Fleet. He explains: "Starting this year, supplies from such countries as Poland, Germany, and Yugoslavia have completely stopped. What is most serious is the lack of paints which are essential to ships. They used to be imported from Baltic nations. Now none are available. There is nothing we can do about it either."

Streets of Vladivostok come on the video, and people, many of them uniformed soldiers, are seen walking in the streets. Meanwhile, an announcer talks about the industry of Vladivostok in general, which used to be heavily dependent on military demand, but is now trying to shift an increasing part of its production capabilities to production of private sector goods. An electric company is cited for example.

The video returns to scenes of the Vladivostok port, and an announcer says: "With the budget reduced and with problems arising in securing fuel and thus in conducting exercises, the Pacific Fleet is beginning to sell its warships—sans arms and instruments—as scrap iron. Even while our team was there, there was a sold-off cruiser being sent to India. The Pacific Fleet plans to sell not only its surface ships but also submarines shortly. Circumstances are now such that the Armed Forces themselves have to go and get foreign exchange."

Then the video changes to views of Khabarovsk. An announcer says: "Khabarovsk, the town facing this river, is the location of the headquarters of the Far East Military District and is an important strategic point of the Army. This is an Army exercise ground in the suburbs of Khabarovsk. On this great exercise ground 15 km wide, tanks and armored carriers used in defending Sino-Russian borders were seen conducting exercises using real ammunition."

As the video shows tanks engaged in an exercise, the announcer continues: "On the training ground there were T-80 tanks, the new tanks reputed to be of the highest capabilities in the world. Some of the T-80 tanks have been moved to this area as a result of the arms reduction plan implemented in Europe."

Military commentator Ebata then explains: "We, the reporting team, gave emphasis in finding out the state of shortages in fuel and parts, but what I felt was that conditions of the Pacific Fleet and the Army troops in Khabarovsk were considerably different. To take these T-80 tanks for instance, they use gas-turbine engines, and hence the cost of fuel for them would be twice as much as that for ordinary tanks. What I felt was that the people there were not concerned about problems of fuel shortages. Besides, as far as I saw from exterior appearance, the state of maintenance was very good. They did not seem to be suffering from part shortage problems. Training also was of a very high level in general. It can be said that the unit was a normally operated outfit. The Soviet Army traditionally is said to have been given top priorities with respect to materials supplies and personnel. I felt that this condition has not changed to date."

As the video returns to scenes of Khabarovsk, a view of the old three-storyed red-brick building of the Far East Military District Command building is shown. While an announcer is saying, "We asked about the military strategy after the end of the cold war," a two-star general is shown talking in an interview with the NHK team. General Isayenko, deputy commander of the Far East Military District, says: "The essence of our military strategy lies in defense. The East-West tension has gone, and there is not one enemy nation for us. We do not see Japan as a threat. We do not regard the SDF as an enemy. Since Japan and Russia are not in a state of hostility, Japan is not an assumed enemy for our nation."

The video once again returns to views of Vladivostok, and while footage is on the views of the port, an announcer says: "On this recent trip to the Russian Far East, we were not permitted to visit Air Force or nuclear missile units, and hence we could not have an overall view of the Far East Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union. But through the visit to the two bases of the Navy and the Army in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk, it was possible for us to observe that with the end of the cold war, the former Soviet Armed Forces have started to change their character drastically."

With this, the part of the report dealing with the two Russian military bases ends, and the scene of the video moves to Japan. NHK commentator Obama stands before the U.S. Naval Fleet Facilities in Yokosuka. He announces: "During the cold war days, the bases in Japan played important roles as the bases closest to the Soviet Union. But their roles are now changing. How is the United States now redrawing its world strategy? How does it intend to position Japan in its strategy? Please hear reports from Washington."

The video shows an area of South Dakota where operations to remove strategic nuclear missile Minutemen II are in progress. Then NHK reporter Hideki Yamada reports from the front of the Pentagon. He says: "What is the minimum level of military capabilities to maintain national security? What military strategy should the country adopt in this regard? The United States is searching for answers to these questions."

Video footage shows the Capitol Building and the process of Congress reviewing the military budget. General Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is seen giving a testimony, saying: "I firmly believe, and the general sense in the community is, that the Armed Forces of the United States should be always structured as a war-winning force, not simply as a deterrent force but a force that if sent into combat, is sent to win."

An announcer then summarizes a report of THE NEW YORK TIMES in February revealing the content of a Pentagon paper relating to key points of the U.S. military strategy. The video shows a picture of the TIMES report headlined "7 Hypothetical Conflicts Foreseen by the Pentagon." In continued discussions of the U.S. military strategy and military role in the world as well as Japan's international roles in the future, views are solicited from such people as Schlesinger, former secretary of defense, Polak, a senior researcher of Rand Institute, Auer, former head of the Defense Department's Japan Division, and Steinbruner, senior researcher of Brookings Institute.

The part of the report dealing with the United States' position concludes here, and the program proceeds to deal with the position of the Japanese Government with respect to military policy. The video shows newscaster Obama standing in front of the Defense Agency building. He declares: "Restructuring of military capabilties is not being done only in the United States or the former Soviet Union. It has also started in Japan. However, while there are voices calling for drastic reductions of military spending, the government takes the position that there is no need to cut the spending drastically just because the cold war has ended. The government insists that, to begin with, the SDF has not existed on the assumption that there was an enemy."

Newscaster Obama then says that in order to help listeners understand better where Japan stands militarily now, the program will review the history of the SDF. The review starts with the days when the SDF was first activated following the Korean conflict, and goes on to relate to the days of the U.S.-Soviet detente when the concept of maintaining the SDF without the assumption of having an enemy came into birth. Former Defense Agency chief Michida Sakada in an interview talks about the inaguration of the so-called concept of maintaining basic defense capabilities, which in essence takes after the idea of maintaining defense capabilities without assuming the existence of an enemy.

The review of the SDF history then touches on a new development created by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the subsequent gaining of influence by hawks in the Japanese Government, specifically by the uniformed officers of the Defense Agency, which meant increasing of military outlays and building up of defense capabilities. The review dwells on the past several years of rapid changes in international situation, and on the changed conditions of Japan's security.

An interview is held with Defence Agency Director General Miyashita to hear his view of "what should be done about the SDF." Obama in his question says: "Our team visited the Pacific Fleet recently. It became apparent from the visit that the attack nature of the fleet mission has diminished and that its mission is now more of a nature of coastal defense."

Director General Miyashita replies: "It is true that as they [Russia] are so tied up with things urgent, like domestic economic problems or economic issues, they have no time to be concerned with other things. I agree that as a result of such developments there have been many changes, but I do not agree with the view that they have shifted to the defense of coastal areas only. Indeed we should think there remains a threat, and should watch the situation carefully until Russia and other countries become stabilized. Defense is not a matter which should be changed to this direction or that by temporary changes in situations. The international situation should be watched from such a viewpoint. That is how I feel."

Obama then asks Miyashita: "Then, could you tell us about the future direction of Japan's security based on such an assumption?" Miyashita replies: "The basic concept of the Defense outline will not change. But there is the so-called Separate Table on which requirements for major equipment and organizations are specified. Since manpower is getting short, we will have to have flexible defense organizations. That will require a broad review of the defense policy with other various changes taken into account. The current medium-term defense plan is valid until 1996. Sufficient time will be give for studies, taking in views of various circles."

The program goes on relating to the international situation following the outbreak of the Gulf war, and the subsequent dispatch by Japan of minesweepers to the Gulf area, and thus comes to the question of whether the SDF troops should be sent to Cambodia as well.

An announcer then refers to the ongoing Diet deliberations on the UN peacekeeping operations bill, and notes the deliberations are really about whether Japan should send the SDF troops to Cambodia and the SDF should join the peacekeeping force there.

In this connection, Miyashita says: "Under the Constitution, the SDF troops are not allowed to go overseas to participate in exercising force. Under the Constitution, we can only defend ourselves when attacked. But, let me put it this way: Suppose there was a big fire, and all other nations participated in fighting the fire. Though the fire has been put out, there remains the problem of helping people return and live there. Besides, this will not be done because Japan simply wants to but because the United Nations requests it. This will also be done in cooperation with other nations. I think this is not something that should be regarded as an act of sending troops overseas."

In conclusion of this Part 1, an announcer says: "What should be the defense policy after the cold war has ended? How should the SDF be tied to this new task called international contributions? The SDF is now at a crossroads."

Newscaster Obama then adds: "In Part 1, we reported that the former Soviet Armed Forces and the U.S. forces have changed since the end of the cold war and that the SDF of Japan faces a turning point. Now what kind of roles should Japan play in the international community? Should it employ the SDF as a messenger of it? If the SDF is to be used, how far should it be allowed to act? In Part 2, we will think about these questions with the provisions of the Constitution in mind. In order to clarify the issues involved, we have interviewed two politicians—one is Mr. Ichiro Ozawa, former general secretary of the LDP, and the other is Ms. Takako Doi, former chairperson of the SDPJ."

The interviews are conducted separately, but the remarks of these two persons are presented alternately so that it appears that they are together in a conference. Ozawa and Doi discuss Japan's international role.

[Ozawa] First of all, Japan is dependent on the international community for its markets, as well as material resources. In other words, Japan is living by importing resources from overseas, making products from them, and then selling them. However, in order for the country to be able to import the resources or export its products, the world needs to be peaceful. Japan can survive only when there is peace and there are free exchanges—of course, it is a different story if it wants to return to the age of the Tokugawa shogunate. Hence, Japan must defend these two premises more earnestly than any other nation. Japan can be at peace only when the world is at peace. To do that, Japan must be earnest in carrying out its roles—going ahead of other countries. Japan must be more active than other countries in making contributions to maintaining the free competitive system.

[Doi] I cannot understand this thinking that personnel contributions are needed, and hence the SDF troops should be sent. The cold war has ended, but as far as Japan is concerned, the cold war structure is still here in Japan in its way of thinking. The thinking of the Western world in general is that the termination of the cold war is something to be happy about.

[Ozawa] One of the missions for us politicians is to protect the livelihood of the people—to protect the lives and property of the Japanese people. In essence, the mission of politicians is to enable the people to live peacefully, as abundantly as possible, and happy mentally and physically."

[Doi] Japan is the country with the peace Constitution envied by the people of the world today. The important mission of Japan in the post-cold war world is to show that it has grown to what it is today, thanks to the peace Constitution.

Discussing interpretation of provisions of the Constitution as to the legality of dispatching SDF troops overseas, Ozawa says, "to speak about the concept or the ideals of the Constitution, what Article 9 is saying is that Japan should not pass judgment and act on its own in sending its troops overseas as a means of settling international disputes. In the preface, the Constitution also says we desire to occupy an honored place in an international society striving for the preservation of peace. What it means is that Japan must not think of its own interests only, in disregard of other countries' interests. What it says is that Japan should cooperate with other countries. Article 9 also refers to justice and order. If there is a question on who should make judgment on justice and order, the answer is—on this earth, now—only the United Nations can do it."

[Doi] If you read Article 9 of the Constitution carefully, it is clear that what he says cannot be accepted by the Constitution. This is clear to anyone.

Regarding the relationship of Japan with the United States, Ozawa insists: "When the United Nations agrees to do something to defend peace, it is not right for Japan to say we cannot do this or we don't want to do that because of domestic reasons. Of course, there can be domestic policy case by case. But as far as the basic attitude or way of thinking is concerned, it should be that of agreeing to do anything that is required of us. Only when that is possible can Japan gain world recognition as a partner of all countries. That is what I think."

On that question, Doi says: "Japan's position in the United Nations was made clear to begin with when it joined it. Japan made it clear that it would abide by the principle of not participating militarily. Japan exists under the Constitution. Japan joined the organization under that condition."

Touching on Japanese-U.S. relations, Ozawa says: "There is no doubt that the Japanese-U.S. relationship, whatever the future may bring, will continue to carry considerable weight for Japan. But even the United States, powerful as it may be, took those actions in the Gulf only after taking appropriate steps in the United Nations, passing resolutions. This process of taking action only after consensus has been reached in the United Nations will continue. The United States will do likewise, and hence our policy of working with the United Nations and our policy on Japanese-U.S. relations will not be a contradiction."

[Doi] Always the problem is the thinking that we have to do this or that because the United States says so, or because the United States thinks so. There is an expression called one-state pacifism referring to the thinking which is concerned only with the peace of one's own country. The new trend of thinking must be called two-state pacifism. If the people are really thinking in this sense, I have nothing to say.

Concerning the question of employing the SDF personnel in peacekeeping operations, Ozawa insists: "The operations involve the work of removing land mines as well as sea mines, and there is the possibility of men encountering armed, lawless guerrillas as well. If we look for people to do these things from among private citizens who are complete amateurs, there will be none. So we look for people who can do the job, and we find that only SDF members are qualified. That is the only reason why we want to employ them. We have to realize that the talk about sending the SDF troops did not come before this need arose."

In turn Doi says: "There appears to be people in the LDP who want to bring out the SDF personnel one way or the other. Apparently, there are such people even in the government. Once the personnel are sent to Cambodia, we will lose the justification for not sending personnel to Yugoslavia or Afghanistan. This indeed will mean that the SDF troops will go to fight in all places as long as the mission is not for invasion."

Newscaster Obama summarizes the discussions of these two and says: "As you have just heard, Mr. Ozawa says that if Japan avoids accepting jobs which are dangerous or disliked, it will face the possibility of getting isolated from the international community. Also, he says that at present the people who can perform such jobs are SDF personnel, and that their employment is permissible even under the Constitution. On the other hand, Ms. Doi opposes the overseas dispatch of SDF personnel. She says that the international contributions of Japan should be limited to the nonmilitary area. In fact, she insists, doing so will gain more trust for Japan from the nations of the world. As you see, the views of the two are squarely opposed, but there is a common point too. They agree that now that the cold war is over, it is time for Japanese politicians to begin talking about and discussing the Constitution, and Japan's future course of direction—with courage."

With that, Part 2 of the program ends, and the final part of the program, Part 3, begins. Obama says that the last part will be devoted to discussions on the international contributions to be made by Japan. Roundtable talks begin, participated in by Yoshiro Mori of the LDP, Masaru Hayakawa of the SDPJ, Nobuaki Futami of Komeito, Hiroshi Kikunami of the Japan Communist Party [JCP], Kansei Nakano of the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP], and Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato.

Participants are first given the chance to present their views on the current world situation and the outlook of the international situation. Generally, they agree that the world is undergoing major changes but is heading toward the direction of peace, even though it will remain volatile for the time being.

Dwelling on the question of international contributions Japan should make in the future, Mori of the LDP says: "What is important to Japan, after all, is Asia. There still are two big socialist countries. Gaps between the rich and the poor remain very wide in this region. Ethnic and religous differences are considerable there too. There are politically unstable nations like Myanmar [Burma]. The greatest task given to Japan, I think, is how it can help Asia pursue peace."

After each person from the political parties represented gave his view, newscaster Obama summarized, saying: "To hear you speak, I can see that you all agree that Japan should make contributions in very wide areas. Now, the question is whether Japan should use the SDF personnel as the medium of contribution—the question is being debated at the Diet." He then asks the government's view on this from Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato.

Kato explains the government's position of wanting to employ the service of the SDF saying: "What I hear often is the concern that the employment of the SDF troops might mean the return of Japan to militarism or that it might raise suspicions among other nations. I think this stems from a mistrust of the SDF. To mention an example, when there was the earthquake in the Philippines and when a question was raised as to whether Japanese men and women should be sent there on rescue and reconstruction missions, you people said Japan should send them. Then there arose the question of whether the SDF personnel could be sent. Then, the SDPJ said that that would be impossible: That it is alright to send Japanese people but it is not alright to send the SDF personnel. This is a revelation of the mistrust of the SDF."

Hayakawa of the SDPJ then raises the view that the dispatch of SDF troops overseas violates the SDF Law as well as the Constitution. Hayakawa insists that Japan should take this opportunity to create a new, special, permanent organization to be devoted to making international contributions. Kikunami of the JCP agrees with the SDPJ view, objecting to the LDP stand that the SDF has to be employed to make international contributions. He insists that the people of Japan do not want it.

Kikunami of the JCP also insists that Cambodia itself does not want any peacekeeping force from Japan. Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato rebutts this, saying: "Both the SDPJ and the JCP have said that the Cambodian Government would not want any peacekeeping force from Japan. However, when Cambodian Premier Hun Sen was here recently, he said he wants the Japanese. He said the Cambodian people are waiting for them. He said—we like Japanese. That was what Hun Sen himself said."

Kato continues: "You ask why it has to be the SDF. But the problem is that there are things that can be done only by SDF troops. For instance, suppose nurses and medics need to be sent. They arrive there and they ask for transportation. There is none, of course. Then they ask to rent trucks, but they are not available either. They have no place to stay for even a week. There are no homes which can offer rooms. When such is the given condition, it is simply impossible for people to do anything unless they have organization such as that of the SDF."

Nakano of the DSP and Futami of Komeito speak generally in support of the view that SDF personnel can do a better job, taking note of the types of operations required, while Kikunami of the JCP and Hayakawa of the SDPJ oppose such a stand on the grounds of the alleged illegality of such action.

The topic turns to relations within Asia in general. Asked to give his view, Kato says: "Asian issues are important. If Japan wants to make international contributions in various fields, it will always have to think about Asia and will have to think about how Asia will interpret such contributions. Because of the importance of Asian issues, a Consultative Meeting To Think About the Asian and Pacific Issues is being inaugurated this May. Leaders of Asia will be invited to attend it, and will have a thorough exchange of views and discussions."

Newscaster Obama asks him also about the international trend of nations forming blocs among themselves, and Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato replies: "I think the formation of blocs should not be welcome. To take the Mahathir concept, for instance, a bloc should not be made only among Asian nations. Such blocs should not be formed, and that is one of the reasons why we have to get together in forums of dialogue.

The program comes to an end, but Newscaster Obama does not give a conclusion, asking questions instead: "Once, the majority of the Japanese spent days worrying about food for the day. Now its position has changed to one in which it is asked what its contributions to the people of the world should be. Now that the cold war has ended, what should Japan do to help create a new world? What should we do about that? The time has come for each one of us to ask himself and debate the question with wisdom and courage."

Four Banks Said Bailing Out Regional Bank

OW0805001192 Tokyo KYODO in English 2312 GMT 07 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 8 KYODO—Four major Japanese commercial banks are moving to bail out Taiheiyo Bank, a debt-ridden Tokyo-based regional bank, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported Friday.

The four banks are Sakura Bank, formerly Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank, which is a leading shareholder in Taiheiyo Bank, and Fuji, Tokai, and Sanwa banks, the economic daily said.

The support measures include 100 billion yen in soft loans, including compensation for losses of 2 billion yen to 3 billion yen to the regional bank, which suffers from a huge amount of irrecoverable loans to Mogami Kosan, a company known for speculating in real estate, it said.

Taiheiyo Bank, formerly called Dai-Ichi Mutual Bank, which became a regional bank in October 1989, has a network of 43 branches, mainly in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

In the business year which ended March 31, 1991, the regional bank reported a 38 percent decline in its unconsolidated pretax profit.

The package of relief measures will be announced in the near future, the newspaper said.

Hata Says No Plans for Pump-Priming Measures

OW0805023492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0229 GMT 08 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 8 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Friday he has no plans to take pump-priming measures to boost domestic demand as a way to slash the nation's swelling trade and current account surpluses.

"I have no fiscal steps in mind to boost domestic demand," he told a news conference after a cabinet meeting.

The ministry reported Wednesday that Japan's current account surplus was 90.08 billion dollars in fiscal 1991, which ended March 31, the second-largest amount on record, and the trade surplus hit a record 113.44 billion dollars.

Asked about a rise in the coupon on the May issue of 10-year government bonds, Hata indicated his view that it will not necessarily lead to an increase in interest rates charged on loans made under a government fiscal investment program called "Zaito."

"It's better for Zaito rates to stay low," Hata said.

A government bond coupon is usually tied to interest rates on Zaito funds, as its rise or decline leads to a rise or decline in the government's fund-raising costs.

LDP, Business: No Need for Additional Measures

OW0805035492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 08 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 8 KYODO—Top ruling party officials and business leaders agreed Friday that there is no need for additional measures to stimulate the economy at present as the economy is pulling out of a slowdown, party officials said.

Tamisuke Watanuki, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and three other party officials told the heads of the nation's four major business groups that they prefer to watch the effects of past stimulative measures on the economy for the time being, the officials said.

"It seems that the economy has hit bottom, and it's turning upward," one of the LDP officials was quoted as saying.

"It's not necessary to consider additional stimulative measures for the time being," another LDP official was quoted as saying.

The government announced in late March a package of measures aimed at propping up the economy, including the acceleration of public works spending included in the fiscal 1992 budget.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and three other business leaders shared the same view with the LDP officials on the state of the economy, according to Keidanren officials.

But Hiraiwa and the three others, apparently referring to the stock market slump, expressed concern about financial problems, saying that they could hinder a quick recovery of the economy by making it difficult for companies to raise funds, they said.

The LDP leaders meet regularly with business leaders to exchange views on a range of issues.

Planned FY 1992 Capital Spending Seen Plunging

OW0705113092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0850 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Planned spending on plant and equipment in Japan for fiscal 1992 totaled 47,994.7 billion yen as of March 1, a drop from the previous year of 7.3 percent, the steepest on record, the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] said Thursday.

The previous worst slide in corporate capital spending at the planning level was a year-on-year 3.8 percent drop for fiscal 1983, when the Japanese economy was suffering from the second oil crisis, according to an agency official.

As total investment that year later increased and came to level off with the previous year, so fiscal 1992 spending could be revised upward later, he said.

He said the EPA's poll was conducted before the government announced a package of pump-priming measures in late March and the Bank of Japan cut its official discount rate at the outset of April.

However, considering the government projection of a nominal 5.1 percent rise in Japan's corporate capital spending in fiscal 1992, which started April 1, the figure based on the EPA poll looks very low.

The finding is based on questionnaires the agency sent in mid-February to 4,496 Japanese companies capitalized at 100 million yen or more, of which 4,272 responded.

Among the polled, planned spending by manufacturers shrank more than spending by nonmanufacturers.

Manufacturers plan to spend a total of 17,917.5 billion yen in fiscal 1992, down 13.8 percent from the previous year, while nonmanufacturers plan about 30,077.2 billion yen, down 2.9 percent.

Among manufacturers, planned capital spending dropped notably with the electric machinery sector dropping 23.7 percent, the precision machinery sector down 23.4 percent, and automobile manufacturers down 19.2 percent, according to the agency's quarterly poll.

Among nonmanufacturers, wholesale and retail sectors' spending is also expected to fall 10.2 percent. The real estate sector should decline 10.9 percent, whle the mining sector dip 17.6 percent, and the construction sector fall 18.1 percent.

As for fiscal 1991, ended March 31, the agency poll found that the companies surveyed have spent a total of 51,753.1 billion yen, up 5.9 percent, from the previous fiscal year.

The rise was up from 5.6 percent found in the December survey, the agency official said.

Manufacturers' capital spending totaled 20,785.9 billion yen, up 4.1 percent from the previous year, while nonmanufacturers' spending amounted to 30,967.2 billion yen, up 7.1 percent.

The agency also asked the corporations about their projection on economic conditions up to six month ahead to calculate its index known as business survey index (BSI).

The index, which is compiled by subtracting the percentage of those predicting weakness from those projecting firmness, came to minus 43 for the domestic economy during the January-March period, minus 48 for the April-June period, and minus 18 for the July-September period.

Businessmen are cautious about the outlook of the nation's economy, the agency report said.

Paper Stresses Diversified Quality of Life

OW0805010292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0046 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 8 KYODO—Japan should change its socioeconomic framework to attach greater importance to diversification of individual lifestyles rather than economic growth, a government report said Friday.

The 1992 annual report on international trade, endorsed by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet, stressed the need to seek a domestic demand-led economic structure aimed at enabling individuals to lead richer lives.

Japan's excessive supply capacity, which has produced a trade surplus through exports of goods and has not sufficiently functioned to improve domestic public life and welfare, should be used to improve the basic infrastructure of life in Japan for future generations, since such capacity will not last for ever, the report said.

Increasing domestic demand will also contribute to reducing Japan's macroeconomic imbalance, mitigating trade friction and expanding the global economy, it said.

Analyzing Japan's previous rapid growth pattern, the report said there was a system of dispersing risks and sharing profits on the assumption of long-term continuous relationships among Japanese businesses, and evaluated its conventional growth-oriented framework as economically reasonable.

In the future, however, it will be necessary to set up a new framework which places more emphasis on expanding consumers' interests and widening the range of individual options through diversified business activities, responding to changes in social and economic circumstances, it said.

In the light of this, the report stressed the importance of Japan's enhancing the transparency of its domestic business practices and further liberalizing its market.

It would benefit not only foreign companies but also Japanese consumers, with diversification of individual lifestyle being promoted through contact with different economic activities overseas, it said.

Amid the recent worldwide economic slowdown and sluggish global trade, Japan should play a positive role in keeping and beefing up the free trade system, giving more consideration to the expansion of global economic welfare, the report said.

With global economies conforming to the principles of free and nondiscriminating trade, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has played a large part in building up the international trading order since it came into effect in 1948.

However, with the collapse of major communist regimes, there is a growing possibility of a decline in the momentum of GATT, it said.

In these circumstances, it should be clearly understood that any protective measure under GATT rules is to be essentially aimed at improving employment at home qualitatively and quantitatively and not expanding domestic individual companies' profits, the report said.

Among industrial nations, Japan should make every effort to further open its markets and remove trade and investment measures which are against GATT rules so that the free trade system can be promoted to the benefit of consumers, it said.

At the same time, Japan should press hard for correction of deviation from GATT rules by other industrialized countries, which might threaten free trade, the report said.

The report also said it is important to incorporate developing countries into the free trade system from the long-term perspective, taking account of their actual conditions.

Referring to the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, sponsored by GATT, the report said each negotiating nation has the responsibility of bringing the round to a successful conclusion so that development of regional integration can be pursued to supplement the global trade order based on GATT rules.

Consumer Confidence Reportedly 'More Upbeat'

OW0705081292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Japanese consumers remain cautious about the future but are becoming more upbeat about price trends, according to a government survey released Thursday.

The Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said in its quarterly report that its index of consumer confidence edged up 1.2 percent from the previous quarter to a seasonally adjusted 42.5 in the January-March quarter.

The rise in the index, which shows how consumers project the domestic economic climate six months down the road, was the first increase in three quarters.

The index skidded 5.8 percent to 42.0 in the October-December quarter.

An EPA official said the survey indicated that although consumers were still cautious about the future, they were becoming optimistic about price trends and when to buy durable goods.

He said price stability and the anticipation of lower interest rates were raising consumer confidence as regards when to buy durable goods.

The survey conducted on 5,040 households asked consumers whether their standard of living had improved, remained the same, or had deteriorated over the last quarter.

The agency has conducted the survey on a quarterly basis since 1982 to gauge basic consumer sentiment in 20 areas such as income growth, interest rate burdens, employment, and purchasing behavior.

Purchases of household goods, audio-visual equipment, and passenger cars and other vehicles rose in the January-March quarter, the survey said.

But purchases of household goods and audio-visual equipment in the April-June quarter are expected to drop, it said.

Matsushita Develops Battery for Electric Cars

OW0705115992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0930 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Osaka, May 7 KYODO—Matsushita Battery Industrial Co. said Thursday it has developed a battery which allows an electric vehicle to travel 2.8 times farther than does a conventional lead acid storage battery.

The affiliate of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. said the new battery, developed with the parent company, is the world's first sealed nickel metal hydride battery.

The main problem with conventional lead acid batteries in electric vehicles is that they do not store enough energy for long-distance travel, Matsushita battery officials said.

They said the company hopes to put the new battery, which features higher output power and a longer lifespan than a lead acid storage battery, into practical use in the mid-1990s.

The officials said the company hopes to sell the battery for one-fifth the cost of a lead acid battery.

The battery has an energy capacity of 70 watt-hours, twice the comparable figure for a lead acid battery, output capacity of 170 watts per kilogram, 1.55 times, and a life span of 1,500 charges, three times, the officials said.

NEC, Sony on RISC Computers' Open Computing

OW0705115192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0920 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—NEC Corp. and Sony Corp. jointly announced Thursday that users of their reduced instruction set computer (RISC) workstations will be able to run common Japanese language software applications on the two companies' machines in September.

The tie-up is a result of both companies' efforts to boost their market share in the Japanese market and create a common unix computing environment for users of their machines, the companies said.

Both companies held a combined share of 26.4 percent in the Japanese workstations market for the year ended March 31, they said.

Unix is an operating system (OS) commonly used in computer workstations.

The common Japanese binary interface OS called "open computing environment for mips [million instructions per second] platform" will enable users of Sony's news workstations and NEC's EWS4800 engineering workstations which use a microprocessor, developed by U.S.-based Mips Computer Inc., to run common identical software applications.

NEC and Sony will hold a seminar in June for vendors of their machines and open two centers in September to help users to adopt the new OS, the officials said.

The companies plan to have 200-300 software applications available this fall, and expand the number of programs to 1,000 by the end of 1993, they said.

Sony shipped 50,000 workstations for the year ended March 31, while NEC Corp. shipped about 33,000 machines, according to an NEC spokesman.

North Korea

Daily Denounces U.S. 'False Propaganda'

SK0805132292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0514 GMT 8 May 92

["Sinister Intention in False Propaganda"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 8 (KCNA)—The U.S. defense secretary during his trip to Australia a few days ago cried: "As I look around the world at places where U.S. Forces are deployed, where we could conceivably be at war within the next 24 hours, then North Korea is it". And he alleged that the DPRK was intensifying "aggression" and "terrorism" and "developing nuclear weapons," foreign press reports said.

MINJU CHOSON today brands this as a sheer fabrication and a shameless sophism. The news analyst says: Lurking behind it is a sinister intention to impair the external prestige of the DPRK and build up public opinion against it.

The DPRK fights against war and nuclear weapons and for peace and opposes all manner of terrorism. It is just like a thief crying "stop thief" that the reactionary circles of the U.S. plege that the DPRK is stepping up war preparations and threat from the North has been created by the DPRK. The situation on the Korean peninsula is being aggravated due to the U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea and dark clouds of war are being brought by the new war provocation moves of the U.S. and the South Korean military fascists.

It is absurd for the U.S. reactionary circles to play the worn out card of "development of nuclear weapons" at a time when the safeguards accord under the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] has been ratified in the DPRK and the problem of nuclear inspection is being solved smoothly. This cannot be construed otherwise than an act motivated by a sinister intention to block a smooth settlement of the nuclear inspection problem and continue nuclear war preparations in Korea.

The U.S. reactionary circles can never be allowed to brand the DPRK as a "terrorist state" as it is an attempt to make a mockery of the Korean people at random.

The DPRK opposes and does not allow any sort of terrorism, whether individual or state-backed.

We can never look with folded arms at the provocative anti-DPRK campaign of the U.S. reactionary circles.

It is an expression of ignorance of the reality and an anachronistic act to try to get something from a false propaganda against the DPRK.

If the U.S. reactionary circles plan to find a pretext for provocation by spreading false rumors and extend the sphere of influence to the DPRK, it is a gross mistake.

Spokesman Reviews First-Day Session of Talks

SK0705135392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0650 GMT 6 May 92

[Statement by An Pyong-su, spokesman for the DPRK delegation to North-South high-level talks, at a news conference at the Shilla Hotel in Seoul on 6 May—recorded]

[Text] Hello, reporters: Because today's meeting, the first session of the seventh round, was open to the public, I presume that you reporters know the content of both sides' keynote speeches. Based on that assumption, I would like to emphasize a few points.

First, the North side's delegation came to the seventh round of the North-South high-level talks driven by a strong desire for accomplishment.

The current seventh round of the North-South high-level talks is the first since the two sides' delegations put the basic North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization into effect at the sixth round. In other words, this is the first meeting since the North-South high-level talks entered a stage of translating agreement into action. The interest and expectation the people at home and abroad have in this round of talks can be said to be great and high.

Conscious of the expectation and concern of the people at home and abroad, our obligation to the nation, and both sides' obligation to the agreement, we came to participate in the seventh round of talks with a determination to keep moving forward and produce something meaningful, without backsliding or coming to a standstill.

To be more specific, the first thing we want to do at this seventh round of talks is to resolve satisfactorily all of the issues discussed at the subcommittee meetings following the sixth round of talks, as well as a series of pending issues, using the technique of cutting the Gordian knot, thus making the current round of talks a [words indistinct] and advance smoothly.

The second thing we want to achieve at this round is, now that the North-South high-level talks have entered a stage of translating what has been agreed upon into action, never to allow the talks to fizzle out after empty talks and exchanges of abstract ideas and principled stands. In other words, we mean to give a present to our fellow countrymen, something they can feel is genuine and that makes the fellow countrymen regard the North-South agreement as their own.

This can be said to be our particularly ambitious attitude with which we came to participate in the seventh round of the North-South high-level talks.

The second thing I would like to talk about are the points on which the North side's delegation particularly stressed and attached importance at the first-day session of the talks.

First, how to assess the works done by the subcommittees during the past two and half a months since the sixth round of talks.

Both the North and South consider the progress of the subcommittees to be unsatisfactory. We do not mean to call anyone to account. It is quite possible for the two sides in the meeting to have different opinions on issues, and they may need much more time than expected to compromise the differences in opinion.

In this context, prolonging the talks can be tolerated and understood by the two sides. What we would like to emphasize again, however, is that we cannot tolerate any kind of artificial, very deliberate, efforts, or shall I say tactics, to delay the progress in the talks for unreasonable, incomprehensive reasons. This is what we feel strongly in summing up our expectations.

What is it then? The issue of nuclear inspection.

Before the seventh round of talks began, the South side had discussed with the government authorities and adopted as a policy withholding the implementation of the [North-South] agreement unless the North accepts the nuclear inspection. This is public knowledge. And the person in authority in South Korea immediately mentioned it publicly.

Unless the nuclear inspection is conducted at an early date, the implementation will be withheld. In the subcommittees meetings the South side went so far as to suggest that the implementation of the agreement will face a grave danger in the future without the nuclear inspection.

Now, how to interpret such remarks?

Our first question is: Is it even possible to raise the issue of nuclear inspection as a precondition at the North-South high-level talks?

At the time when the North-South agreement was adopted and put into effect, the North and South made no promise to make the nuclear inspection issue a precondition. Nor can it be made a precondition.

If it had been made a precondition, the agreement would not have been adopted.

In essence, making this a precondition is completely unjust and unreasonable. If the South side stubbornly continues to insist on making this a precondition, it should have done so before the two sides signed North-South agreement, arguing that unless it is made a precondition, it would not sign the agreement. This is only natural.

To say that nuclear inspection should be made a precondition well after the agreement has been signed and put into effect is in no way reasonable.

Next, we consider the nuclear inspection issue unjust because it is not clear whether the South has in mind the international inspection to be conducted between the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and our Republic or the mutual inspection between the South and North when it comes to the nuclear inspection issue.

What I mean is, it is not clear which is the case. Why? Let us think about the international inspection. We signed the agreement on nuclear inspection in accordance with the nuclear safeguards accord while we were at the talks. Last 9 April, the Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK officially endorsed the nuclear safeguards accord.

The procedures necessary for conducting nuclear inspection have been going smoothly between our country and the IAEA, without any kind of friction or problems. I presume that you all know this.

Nuclear inspection is an issue between the IAEA and us. How can the South side make it a precondition at the talks? In fact, the South side has no justification for interfering and meddling in this issue.

Next, suppose the South side has the inspection between the South and North in mind. The North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee was inaugurated months ago and it has already held quite a few meetings. The nuclear issue is now being discussed at the Joint Nuclear Control Committee.

At the meetings of this Joint Nuclear Control Committee, the two sides are now discussing in detail how the North and the South will implement the joint declaration on denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, including nuclear inspection.

Even the regulations governing nuclear inspection are being discussed at the committee meeting. Clearly knowing that the nuclear issue is in discussion at the

Joint Nuclear Control Committee, how can the South side raise the nuclear inspection issue at some other subcommittee and say it should be made a precondition?

If and when the issue is discussed smoothly at the Joint Nuclear Control Committee, it will be solved reasonably.

If this is made a precondition at some other meetings, bypassing all procedures, it is equally not right. Proceeding from this point of view, we have expressed our regret to the South side that making the nuclear inspection issue a precondition has caused the subcommittees a great deal of inconvenience.

This is the point we will talk about first and emphatically in summing up the current round of talks.

The second point I would like to emphasize is the delay. There would be no problem if the delay was inevitably caused by the different methods the two sides intend to employ. However, we see the delay as somewhat deliberate. It is because the South side has made something utterly unjust as a precondition.

Now why does the South side try to delay the talks by making the nuclear inspection issue, without cause, a precondition? We have no choice but to ask: What ulterior motive does the South side have?

We have thought about it from many aspects. In view of the South side's assertions at subcommittee meetings, and the Political and Military Subcommittee in particular, we have detected something more serious in the South side's effort to delay the talks.

Four points: I would not try to explain them in length. One point concerns relations with the Untied States. The others concern the National Security Law, the issue of making the government the sole channel for dialogue, and the anticommunist system.

With these four points in mind, the South side, mainly in the Political and Military Subcommittee meetings, acted in a way that has left us with a strong impression that the South side is evasive, forgive my expression. Evasion is what we felt.

The reason? Let me take relations with the United States as an example. The two sides have agreed to the principle of independence. In other words, the two sides have agreed that we should settle the issues independently, without each side allowing outside forces to interfere and without depending on them. The two sides understood and confirmed this.

Nevertheless, the South side insists that the withdrawal of U.S. troops is not essential in terms of the principle of independence. This stunned us. Why? When we say we do not rely on outside forces or when we say we do not allow outside forces to interfere in our internal affairs, what do we mean by outside forces? Who are they?

We do not mean the Soviet Union, which has disappeared, or China, or still some other neighboring countries. It is clear. It is needless to say that the foreign forces are those of the United States, which stations its military forces in South Korea and meddles in the Korean question. Therefore, the South side should show the will and make the decision to withdraw U.S. forces from South Korea. Of course, we do not insist that all of the U.S. forces should be withdrawn now and at once. This should be discussed with the United States. Far from making the decision to withdraw U.S. forces, however, the South side says that the presence of U.S. forces are not an obstacle to adhering to the principle of independence, that they have nothing to do with adhering to the principle of independence, that they are a deterrence to war, and the like.

If the U.S. forces were a deterrence to war, peace on the Korean peninsula should be guaranteed by their presence in South Korea. This means that the South side thoroughly rejects the independent efforts between the North and the South for the solution to the problem of peace for the country.

If problems should be solved with the view that only if U.S. forces continue to stay in South Korea can peace on the Korean peninsula be guaranteed, how can the North and the South make efforts for peace independently? If we fail to take a clear position in relations with the United States, while distorting the principle of independence, we will face serious problems.

The next problem is about the National Security Law. I will not explain here why the National Security Law should be abolished, because all of you know. We should take steps commensurate with the new era of reconciliation and cooperation, as stated by the South side. What I stress here is that we should not maintain all legacies of the era of confrontation as sacred and inviolable. However, the South side tries to maintain the law, and its attempt to maintain the law is being laid bare. This is why we make an issue of the law.

Let me give an example of this. The Ministry of Justice recently officially announced that the North-South Basic Agreement is like a joint declaration or a gentlemen's agreement and therefore is invalid. This is an incorrect understanding and a distortion of the precious North-South agreement. The North-South agreement should be put into practice. It is by no means a gentlemen's agreement. Trying to maintain the National Security Law in the future as a sacred and inviolable law shows that the South side has not gotten rid of its old viewpoint. We must express regret over this.

If we are to enter the era of reconciliation and cooperation, we should also change our attitude in conformity with the demands of the new era. Of course, we do not claim that the law should be abolished immediately. We should have discussions about abolishing the law. However, the South side should not continue to keep the law but should review it in conformity with the new trend.

Regarding the problem of a unified channel for reunification dialogue, our opinion of this problem is the same. The

South side claims that in order to embody the principle of independence the authority of representation of the other side in reunification dialogue should be recognized. It claims that reunification dialogue should be made with the government, not with other persons. There are many complicated problems in the concept of independence. By nature, independence is not a concept of [words indistinct]. The opposite of independence is subjugation.

Independence is a problem which arises in relations with foreign countries. We do not make issue of independence in North-South relations. Is the South subordinated to the North? Is the North subordinate to the South? No one would say yes. Then why is the South side trying to link independence with the problem of representation in North-South dialogue? It is clear that the South side's assertion on the problem of representation in North-South dialogue is aimed at keeping a unified channel for reunification dialogue. In a nutshell, to achieve reconciliation and cooperation between the North and the South and to realize free exchanges and travel of people between the North and the South we should not make regulations that restrict [words indistinct].

Particularly important is that the reunification question is not an administrative problem.

Reunification is a national issue and a political issue: It must be resolved politically. Therefore, we consider the view that only the authorities, not anyone else, must be the parties to discussions on reunification to ignore the popular masses and trampel their creative efforts, and we cannot tolerate this. If we review the entire historical course of discussions on reunification, there has in fact been no dialogue on reunification. The authorities have been parties to confrontation. They had not contributed to resolving the reunification issue at all before the high-level talks started. The authorities have considered discussions on reunification to be a taboo, have they not? However, various people, political parties, and factions have persistently conducted the reunification movement. They are all main forces of reunification who, becoming masters, have conducted the reunification movement. Then how can our authorities, who have not done anything, completely ignore discussions with those people and propose that we discuss reunification among ourselves? This is not possible. This would distort the history of the reunification movement. We think that not insisting on having a single channel but listening to many people's views and resolving the issue democratically is a way to achieve reunification in compliance with our nation's will and demand. We stressed this in today's round of talks. I will not mention the anticommunist system because this issue is similar to that of the National Security Law. These are the four points [as heard] we stressed in the subcommittee meetings for the past two and a half months.

We expressed our position that in the current seventh round of talks we must resolve all the issues that subcommittee meetings failed to resolve, thus achieving a breakthrough. Therefore, we also expressed our position that the seventh high-level round of talks must finalize the issue of forming the Political Joint Committee, the Military Joint Committee, the Cooperation and Exchange Joint Committee, and the Social and Cultural Joint Committee. We also expressed our position that we must finalize the issue of working out supplementary agreements, which will serve as a guideline for the operation of joint committees, during the current round of talks if possible or by 19 May, the deadline for forming joint committees.

In connection with the basic issues, today we also expressed our basic position that we must finalize the issue of opening a liaison office in Panmunjom for the North-South high-level talks and that we must continuously operate the Joint Nuclear Control Committee and the three subcommittees.

Next, the fourth thing I would like to talk about is that, as I said in mentioning the second point, the current round of talks must give our fellow countrymen joy that they can feel in their hearts. The Red Cross Societies have discussed the issue of separated families on many occasions but in vain. We proposed that the current round of talks agree on the exchange of large-scale visiting groups and art troupes on the occasion of 15 August to promote a favorable atmosphere and to give our people the first gift in implementing the North-South agreement. I will not elaborate on this issue because you know it very well.

Another special project we proposed concerns Mr. Yi In-mo. As you know, Mr. Yi In-mo is different from ordinary separated families. He served a long prison term. I will not elaborate on his past. He has become physically handicapped because of his prison life. He is 76 years old and is physically and spiritually exhausted. He is an old man in his later years of life, with no family or relatives [in South Korea]. Repatriating him to the North would not be particularly beneficial to us or harmful to the South, would it? This is because his case is a very humanitarian matter. I think we must resolve this out of generosity. Moreover, the members of his family know how he is. Mr. Yi In-mo knows that his wife and his daughter are living in the North, and they know that he is in a desperate situation. Therefore, we must show generosity in resolving this issue. We proposed that this issue be resolved as a special project. We also proposed that the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and the student Yim Su-kyong be released at the same time.

If old people and art troupes are exchanged on the occasion of 15 August, if Mr. Yi In-mo joyfully hugs his family, if Rev. Mun Ik- hwan meets his wife, and if the student Yim Su-kyong meets her parents, this will be not merely their joy but joy for all of us. Therefore, we are planning to discuss this matter in order to resolve it.

This is what we stressed at the first-day session of talks.

Premier Speaks at Dinner Hosted by South

SK0705152792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Seoul May 7 (KCNA correspondent)—Yi Hae-won, mayor of Seoul, arranged a dinner at Hyatt Hotel today in honour of the North side's delegation to the 7th inter-Korean high-level talks.

The members of the delegation led by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, and the suite and reporters were invited to the dinner.

Present there were the members of the South side's delegation including Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and personages.

Speaking at the dinner, Premier Yon Hyong-muk noted that agreements on the formation and operation of joint committees for nonaggression, cooperation and exchange and on the installation and operation of the North-South liaison office were signed and effectuated at the talks.

This shows that we who have taken the first step toward reconciliation, peace and reunification continue advancing, he said.

Especially, we agreed to exchange visiting groups of old parents and art troupes this time, thus bringing another great joy to the fellow countrymen, he said, and added: This is the first gift and precious fruit presented to our nation by the historical North-South agreement on reconciliation, peace, mutual cooperation and reunification.

What is urgently needed to us at the moment is to do our best to nurse the first seeds sown for the nation with utmost care so that they may bear a fruit leading to reunification tomorrow. To this end, it is necessary, above all, to dispel misunderstanding, distrust and all feelings of hostility and maintain the firm stand and will for reconciliation and unity.

There is no reason why we should remain captive to the consciousness of confrontation between the North and the South still today when we have committed ourselves to nonaggression and taken the first step toward reconciliation and cooperation. We should advance together along the road of reconciliation and unity, unswervingly sticking to the viewpoint that we are one and the same nation, one flesh and blood.

Personages of different circles and people of broad strata in the North and the South who are willing to work for the nation and want reunification should think first of the nation than outside forces and set greater store by the value of the nation than by ideas and systems.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk further said:

Not only the authorities but political and public figures and people of all social standings should be allowed to freely travel between Pyongyang and Seoul, and the way must be broadened for dialogue and contact.

It is necessary to create conditions and environment for the people of all social standings to freely meet with each other and have open-hearted discussions over the reunification, irrespective of idea, ideology, political view and residence.

We will broadly develop widerange contacts and dialogues with people of different social strata under the noble idea of great national unity and faithfully implement the North-South agreements with all sincerity and efforts.

The dinner was also addresed by the mayor of Seoul.

He said the North side's delegation has done a lot of work to realize the aspirations of the 70 million fellow countrymen and the desire of the nation.

He expressed the hope that the common development of the nation would be attained through reconciliation, unity, exchange and cooperation.

Second-Day Session of N-S Talks Held 7 May

SK0705021192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0141 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Amid the great expectation and interest of all fellow countrymen, the second-day session of the seventh round of the North-South high-level talks is in progress at a conference room in the Shilla Hotel, Seoul. It is an open session as agreed upon by the two sides.

Present at the talks are Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council and head of our side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks; delegates; and suite members.

The South side's delegates, including Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, its chief delegate, and suite members are also present at the talks.

The talks continue.

Talks End 'With Success'

SK0705115392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Seoul May 7 (KCNA correspondent)—The 7th North-South high-level talks closed with success today.

Today's talks was held in public by agreement between the sides.

Head of our side's delegation Premier Yon Hyong-muk spoke. In response to the earnest desire of the 70 million fellow countrymen for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, he declared, the North and the South are to sign and effectuate documents of agreement after the completion of the readjustment and arrangement of the texts through contacts between delegates and chairmen of the subcommittees on the 5th, 6th and 7th of May.

Prime Minister Chong Won-sik who is chief delegate of the South side spoke next.

Then the heads of both delegations signed agreement on the formation and operation of North-South Military Joint Committee, agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South Cooperation and Exchange Joint Committee and agreement on the installation and operation of North-South liaison offices and exchanged their texts.

Agreement on the 7th North-South Korean high-level talks was published at the talks.

Head of our side's delegation Premier Yon Hyong-muk made a concluding speech.

He said that agreements on the formation and operation of the North-South Military Joint Committee and the North-South Cooperation and Exchange Joint Committee and an agreement on the installation and operation of the North-South liaison offices have been adopted and brought into effect at the talks, with the result that conditions have been created to carry into practice the North-South agreement by forming joint committees within ten odd [as received] days.

He said that at the talks the sides agreed to inaugurate the North-South Reconciliation Joint Committee for the implementation of the part of reconciliation of the North-South agreement before the 8th inter-Korean high-level talks, work out the annexed agreements of the part of nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange by September 5 and work out the annexed agreement of the part of reconciliation before the 8th inter-Korean talks and, as a special measure, agreed to simultaneously exchange old parents' visiting groups and art troupes with the 47th anniversary of the August 15 liberation as an occasion. This has made it possible to present the first valuable gift to the nation on the road of implementing the North-South agreement, he added.

Since it is us the North and the South that signed the agreement and promised its implementation, it is the stand and responsibility to be taken by the delegates of both sides to adhere to an independent stand and honestly carry into effect the provisions of the agreement, subordinating everything to the interests of the whole nation, he said, and continued:

The North and the South which declared at home and abroad that they would break with the past of antagonism and confrontation should no longer remain an "enemy" or an "estranged person" to each other but pool efforts and do only things beneficial to reunification as the people of the same nation who vowed to make joint efforts for unity and reunification.

In his concluding speech, Chong Won-sik said he was pleased at the fact that a foundation enough for the honest implementation and observance of the North-South basic agreement has been laid. But he made the eccentric remarks that the North must discharge its "responsibility" with regard to the nuclear inspection problem, not uttering a word about the pgoblem of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in the area of the South side, which is the key point in the settlement of the nuclear problem.

Agreement Adopted

SK0705113092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Seoul May 7 (KCNA correspondent)—"Agreement of the 7th North-South High-Level Talks" was published by the 7th North-South high-level talks held in Seoul today.

It notes that "Agreement on the Formation and Operation of the North-South Military Joint Committee," "Agreement on the Formation and Operation of the North-South Cooperation and Exchange Joint Committee" and "Agreement on the Installation and Operation of the North-South Liaison Office" were adopted and effectuated at the talks.

According to the 7-paragraph agreement, the North-South Reconciliation Joint Committee shall be formed and run for the implementation of the North-South agreement on reconciliation, and a necessary number of working consultative councils be set up under the committee.

An annexed agreement on North-South reconciliation shall be worked out and the North-South Reconciliation Joint Committee be inaugurated before the 8th inter-Korean high-level talks.

The North-South Military Joint Committee, the North-South Economic Cooperation and Exchange Joint Committee, the North-South Social and Cultural Cooperation and Exchange Joint Committee shall be formed on May 18, 1992 and, at the same time, each side shall hand over to the other the lists of its side's members.

Each side shall hand over to the other the list of its chief, deputy chief and liaison delegates of the North-South liaison offices to be installed in its respective area of Panmunjom on May 18 and, at the same time, notify the other of the operation of its office.

An annexed agreement on nonaggression shall be worked out by September 1, 1992, and that on cooperation and exchange by September 5, 1992.

Out of the desire to present the first gift to the nation in the implementation of the North-South agreement, the Red Cross organizations of both sides shall be authorized to send simultaneously to Pyongyang and Seoul visiting groups of old parents of separated families and art troupes consisting of 100 old parents, 70 artistes and 70 reporters and support personnel from each side, on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the August 15 national liberation this year.

The fourth session of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee shall be held on May 12, 1992, the fourth session of the North-South Political Subcommittee on May 19, 1992, the fourth session of the

North-South Military Subcommittee on May 25, 1992, and the fourth session of the North-South Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee on May 30, 1992.

The 8th North-South high-level talks shall be held in Pyongyang from September 15 to 18, 1992.

Paper Comments on Talks

SK0805095292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0022 GMT 8 May 92

[NODONG SINMUN 8 May commentary: "Fruition of Serious Efforts for Reunification"]

[Text] The seventh round of North-South high-level talks that opened on 6 May in Seoul to great expectations and interest of the fellow countrymen ended on 7 May.

The two sides adopted and put into effect an agreement on forming and operating the North-South Joint Military Committee, an agreement on forming and operating the North-South Joint Cooperation and Exchange Committee, and an agreement on establishing and operating the North and South liaison offices.

The two sides also agreed to inaugurate the North-South Joint Reconciliation Committee for implementing the portion in the North- South agreement dealing with reconciliation before the eighth round of the North-South high-level talks, on working out an annexed agreement on the portions in the North-South agreement dealing with nonaggression and cooperation and exchange before 5 September, and on working out an annexed agreement on the portion dealing with reconciliation before convening the eighth round of the talks.

This is an important success in implementing the North-South agreement, and it opens a bright vista for reconciliation and nonaggression between the North and South and for hastening national reunification through diversified negotiations, cooperation, and exchange.

That the North and South have achieved results at the seventh round of the North-South high-level talks capable of contributing to the implementation of the North-South agreement is a fruition of our serious stand and sincere effort driven by our single-minded, patriotic desire to hasten national reconciliation, unity, and reunification by satisfactorily putting into effect and implementing the agreement commensurate with national aspirations for reunification.

As is known, our side put the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization into force at the sixth round of the North-South high-level talks. We presented comprehensive proposals for annexed agreements for putting into effect and implementing the North-South agreement at meetings of the Political, Military, and Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittees, as well as at the meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee, and even proposals for forming and operating joint committees in each area, their executive institutions.

After summing up at the seventh round of talks the form of progress made in each subcommittee as a lesson for the future, our side, out of a desire to resolve at any cost the issues left unsolved at the subcommittee meetings, put forward such reasonable proposals as forming a joint committee in each field, adopting and putting into effect the annexed agreements in each field that these joint committees should assume as a guideline in their work, and forming the North-South liaison offices. We made sincere efforts to achieve this.

In particular, as a special case designed not only to make substantial progress in the discussion of the issues related to implementing the North-South agreement, but also, going one step further, to put into effect specific points agreed upon between the North and South, our side has also put forward proposals for settling the expatriation of Mr. Yi In-mo; setting free those who visited the North, such as Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and coed Yim Su-kyong at an early date; and exchanging the groups of elderly people visiting home and art troupes between the North and South on the occasion of the 15 August national liberation.

These proposals and our side's sincere efforts for realizing them are another clear expression of our firm will and positive stand to sincerely implement the North-South agreement in compliance with the expectations and desire of the nation.

What we find lacking in the results of this last round of talks is that the two sides have failed to adopt and put into effect annexed agreements that the joint committee in each area should regard as guidelines for work.

Just as it behaved in the subcommittees meetings, during the seventh round of talks the South side's attitude was passive toward the settlement of the central points of the North-South agreement, rather than sticking to the job and weighing the importance and urgency of matters. At the same time, it tried to avoid adopting the annexed agreements by using unreasonable pretexts.

This is an insidious attempt to raise obstacles to discussing the issues and, going one step further, to delay a smooth implementation of the North-South agreement by avoiding a sincere implementation of all the points in the North-South agreement and by excluding some core points from the subjects of discussion.

In the course of many contacts between the chairmen and delegates of the subcommittees after the first-day session, our side pointed out the South's insincere attitude toward and wrong stand on the talks and called on it to accept our side's fair, impartial, and realistic proposals if it intends to implement the North-South agreement.

Unable to resist our side's sincere and serious stand and magnanimous efforts to offer joy to the fellow countrymen thirsting for reunification by leading the talks to success at any cost, the South side had no choice but to withdraw its unjust stand and agree to work out the annexed agreements in the future.

The whole course of the seventh round of the North-South high-level talks has shown that no matter what obstacles the splittist forces within and without may try to raise to national reconciliation, unity, and reunification, it is to no avail. The trends are firmly and vigorously moving toward reunification before the end of the nineties.

No one can violate the North-South agreement, which is a North-South joint document of agreement, along with the 4 July joint statement, which serve as a milestone for national reunification.

The North and South should do their best to put the North-South agreement into practice by forming joint committees in all areas and by adopting and putting into effect the annexed agreements as agreed.

Under no circumstances should the South side delay or avoid the implementation of the North-South agreement. Moreover, now that the agreement has entered a stage of being put into practice, it should not act trying to go back to zero.

Delegation Leaves Seoul; Spokesman Gives Statement

SK0805102392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Seoul May 8 (KCNA correspondent)—The North side's delegation left Seoul on May 8 after participating in the 7th North-South high-level talks.

Officials concerned of the South side's delegation left the hotel with our delegation to Panmunjom.

Spokesman of our side An Pyong-su published a statement in Seoul upon the departure of our delegation.

Noting that agreements were adopted between the sides, the statement stressed that the talks can be said to be successful because they opened a bright prospect for the work of subcommittees, guaranteed the success of the eighth round of talks and decided to exchange visits of old parents and art troupes.

The statement went on:

This, however, does not mean that all things were satisfactory at the talks.

Firstly, no progress was made at all in the work of the Nuclear Control Joint Committee. We are going back without dispelling our doubt about the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea.

Secondly, the sides failed to adopt annexed agreements and to form the Reconciliation Joint Committee.

Thirdly, the South side avoided an answer to our demand for a humanitarian measure for old man Yi In-mo. Worse still, competent authorities of South Korea walked away the old man who came near the venue of the talks to meet our delegation.

Fourthly, the South side did not give a reply to our delegation's demands for the readjustment of the relations toward the U.S., the abolition of the "National Security Law," and permission of free contact and free dialogue between all parties, groupings and social strata, that is, rectification of the policy of "unified channel of dialogue".

Delegation Returns to Pyongyang

SK0805105292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 8 (KCNA)—The North side's delegation led by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, passed through Panmunjom and arrived in Pyongyang this afternoon after participating in the 7th North-South high-level talks in Seoul.

It was met by Vice-president Yi Chong-ok, Vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland Yun Ki-pok, Chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee Kang Hyon-su and other officials concerned.

Yi In-mo Arrested in Seoul

SK0705150092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1103 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Seoul May 7 (KCNA special correspondent)—Old man Yi In-mo, former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army who was taken prisoner after being fatally wounded in the Korean war, was arrested by police today in the vicinity of the venue of the 7th North-South high-level talks.

He suffered in prison for 34 years for refusing ideological conversion forced upon him by the South Korean authorities. After being released, he has been strongly demanding that he be sent back to the northern half of the country where his dear wife and daughter live.

The South Korean police arrested him after throwing a strict cordon with eight police companies around Shilla Hotel, the venue of the talks, charging him with an attempt to make contact with our side's delegation to the high-level talks after coming to Seoul from Kimhae.

South 'Smear Campaign' Against North Decried

SK0705070692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0614 GMT 7 May 92

["What Does Smear Campaign Aim At?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 7 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a commentary by the press corps to the 7th North-South high-level talks on the hysteric smear campaign of the subsidized papers of South Korea against the North.

Some South Korean newspapers including SEOUL SINMUN, SEGYE ILBO, KYONGHYANG SINMUN and TONG-A ILBO slandered our socialist system centred on the masses and took issue with the "human rights situation" in the North under the eye of the North side's delegation staying in Seoul to participate in the talks.

This is a flagrant violation of the basic spirit of the North-South agreement and a rude act devoid of elementary ethics and morality, stresses NODONG SINMUN.

The news analyst says:

Judging from the similarity of the tones of the false propaganda there is no doubt that it is not a "brainchild" of some hack journalists but a behind-the-scene work of those who dislike national reconciliation, unity and reunification.

It is South Korea that has a social system deserving denunciation and serious human rights problems, a land where a vicious military fascist rule has been established under the domination of outside forces. At this very moment, people of various strata are fighting for national independence and human rights, the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the abolition of the "National Security Law".

Nevertheless, the fact, the South Korean authorities instigated "government"-subsidized papers to launch a smear campaign against the North. This is a deliberate act to provoke the North, incite the feelings of confrontation and lay obstacles to the implementation of the North-South agreement.

Even before the opening of the talks, the South side mobilized riffraffs to spread rumours that there would be "no progress" in the seventh round of talks and that the situation demands "a recess of the talks between premiers". This also reveals the sinister intention to reduce the North-South agreement to a mere scrap of paper.

The South side must abandon the anachronistic, outdated idea of seeking confrontation with fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces, respect the basic spirit of the North-South agreement and sincerely approach the current talks for promoting the implementation of the agreement.

MINJU CHOSON demands that the South side immediately stop the despicable smear campaign, clearly mindful that it can get nothing from the anti-communist smear campaign.

Kim Il-song Gives Guidance in Kaesong

SK0805025592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, gave on-the-spot guidance to various sectors of the national economy in the city of Kaesong regarding their work on 5 May.

On this day the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song inspected many units such as the Kaesong textile factory, Pagyon cooperative farm in Kaesong city, and historic and cultural relics. He gave programmatic teachings which will serve as a guideline for developing the city's national economy even further.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave on-the-spot guidance to Kaesong textile factory.

In the course of inspecting such production processes as the No. 2 fine spinning workshop and the No. 1 cloth workshop, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song acquainted himself with the detailed status of production as well as technology and equipment and expressed his great satisfaction over the fact that the working class at this factory has organized the factory well—modern, hygienic, and cultured—and is now mass producing an assortment of quality cloth by staging a vigorous struggle for implementing the party's policy on realizing the cause of making the national economy chuche-oriented, modernized, and science-oriented.

He then highly appreciated the success attained by the working class.

Saying that the guidance functionaries at the factory have built a firm material and technical foundation for the factory and made great headway in raising the quality of the goods by going among the producing masses and actively stirring up their creativity and initiative in accordance with the demands of the Taean work method, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught that when it comes to the socialist enterprise management method, nothing is more important than thoroughly implementing the Taean work method, the most superior communist enterprise management method.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught that in order to produce and supply the people with a variety of quality cloth in quantity, it is imperative to raise the level of the workers' technology and skill and, at the same time, to do a good job of maintaining the equipment, and vigorously launch a mass technical innovation movement.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song cited tasks facing the light industrial sectors of Kaesong city.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, saying that a large number of light industrial bases have been built in the city of Kaesong within a short period of time under the leadership of our party, taught that a variety of goods necessary for the people's livelihood should be produced and supplied satisfactorily by effectively utilizing the light industrial bases that already exist.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught that in Kaesong city there are many light industrial sectors with a long history of production, including world-famous Koryo pottery and Koryo ginseng, and that, therefore, more characteristic light industrial products should be produced. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said that it is better to build a large-scale, general training base for light industrial technicians in Kaesong city.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song toured downtown Kaesong city and taught that it, an ancient city, should be more properly built. The great leader Comrade Kim

Il-song taught that Kaesong was the capital of Koryo, the first unified country of our country, and has many precious historic and cultural relics and that therefore the city should be built characteristically so as to give it the flavor of a cultural city with a long history and that the city management work, too, should be properly carried out accordingly.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song toured recreational centers in Kaesong city and taught that scenic spots and recreational centers, including Pagyong Falls, in Kaesong should be more properly built as cultural recreational centers for the working people.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave on-the-spot guidance to (Pakyon) cooperative farm. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song acquainted himself with the status of this year's farm work and the status of ginseng cultivation in the cooperative farm and taught that a new turn should be effected in agricultural production by concentrating all efforts on it this year, the year of bumper harvests.

Saying that it is important for rural villages in Kaesong area to properly cultivate not only food grain crops, but also ginseng, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught that to produce more high- quality ginseng, it is imperative to strengthen scientific research work and the training of technicians in this sector.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song looked around many historic and cultural relics in Kaesong city, including Koryo Songgyungwan and Manwoldae. Saying that only when we are properly aware of the history of struggle and creation of our people can we have the feelings of warm love for the country and national pride and honor, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught that the preservation and management work of precious historic and cultural relics and remains associated with our people's wisdom and talent should be properly conducted.

All party members and the working people in Kaesong city are filled with the firm determination to further glorify the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style by effecting a great new upsurge in all sectors of the national economy.

South Korea

Final Day of N-S Premier Talks Reviewed

SK0705231492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0834 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—The prime ministers of South and North Korea signed and exchanged documents on the establishment and operation of liaison offices, and committees on military, economic exchanges and cooperation, and social and cultural exchanges and cooperation Thursday morning as their words and acts were broadcast live in South Korea.

Prime Minister Chong Won-sik of the South was heard to open the second-day session.

"We are behind schedule. Now, let's start," he said.

He proposed that the session proceed with the reading of the agreements, their verification and a discussion of them. North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk accepted Chong's offer, saying the two sides had reached "a complete consensus" with regard to the liaison offices, military committee and exchange of art troupes and senior citizens.

Chong had apparently forgotten that they had reversed their plan and decided to open the session to the public. As he was proposing the day's program to the Northern delegation, he asked the journalists to leave the room. He was reminded shortly that the session was open.

Chong made the opening remarks and Yon followed with words of greeting. The chairmen of the subcommittees read the agreements one by one, and after mutual verification, the prime ministers signed them.

The session came to a close when a joint statement was read by spokesmen An Pyong-su of the North and Yi Tong-pok of the South, followed by closing remarks by Yon and Chong.

Delegates from the two Koreas had engaged in several wars of nerves before producing their agreement on the liaison offices and three committees, a South Korean official said.

Both sides started the negotiations on committees with the understanding that they should be formed as soon as possible, as stated in last year's Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Exchanges and Cooperation. They got down to the negotiations at 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Hotel Shilla and ended them by late afternoon.

They seemed to have struggled hard to save face concerning a reconciliation committee by agreeing in principle to form it "some day." The committee was not mentioned in an early agreement on broad relations.

The military committee turned out to be the most formidable stumbling block to inter-Korean agreement. Delegates from the two sides pitched their voices high over whether the committee could address the thorny issue of nonaggression. At around 4 a.m. Thursday, a Northern delegate ran out of the conference room. He appeared to be in a fit of anger. The two sides reached agreement on the military committee at around 7 a.m. Thursday.

A South Korean delegate said some difficulty arose as North Korea's Ministry of the People's Armed Forces was not under the jurisdiction of the prime minister.

Kong No-myong, South Korean-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), and his North Korean counterpart, Choe U- chin, talked with each other for one and half hours from 9 p.m.

Wednesday, but failed to produce an agreement. They decided only to hold the fourth meeting of the JNCC on Tuesday.

A highly-placed South Korean official said the North Koreans seemed to have been ordered to take home tangible results.

"Some of the North Korean subcommittee chairmen and delegates cancelled their trip to a Kia Motor Co. factory Wednesday to get on with last-minute negotiations," the official noted.

North Korea showed its most positive attitude in the history of the inter-Korean high-level talks and exhibited flexibility on its long-held position that the issues of supplementary agreements and committees should be settled at one time, he said.

Chong Won-sik's Closing Remarks at N-S Talks

SK0705062092 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0220 GMT 7 May 92

[Closing remarks by Chong Won-sik, prime minister of the ROK, at the second-day session of the seventh round of North-South high-level talks held at the Shilla Hotel in Seoul on 7 May—live]

[Text] Premier Yon Hyong-muk and delegates of the North side: We are closing the seventh round of North-South high-level talks amid the attention of all fellow countrymen and the world. First, I, together with all the nation, am very happy that at the current talks the North and the South have provided a firm foundation on which they will sincerely implement and abide by the North-South basic agreement by displaying the spirit of compromise.

Today the North and the South respectively signed and effectuated agreements on forming and operating the North-South liaison office, the Joint Military Committee, the Joint Economic Exchange and Cooperation Committee, and the Joint Social and Cultural Exchange and Cooperation Committee, the time limit for the establishment of which is stipulated in the North-South basic agreement.

As your side knows, the activities of the subcommittees and the Joint Nuclear Control Committee conducted thus far failed to bear the satisfactory results that we had expected. So, because the current seventh round of North-South high-level talks was held under such a situation, the spirits of delegates of both sides were very depressed. This was a stern fact.

However, sharing the understanding that the agreements on forming and operating the organizations, the time limit for the establishment of which is stipulated in the basic agreement, should be adopted at the current talks without fail, both sides, the North and the South, exerted their all earnest and sincere efforts and, thus, have achieved such outstanding successes.

By registering another valuable achievement for the implementation of the North-South basic agreement, we have come to reaffirm both sides' will to put the basic agreement into practice. At the same time, such progress constitutes the earnest acceleration of the practical efforts toward reconciliation, peace, and cooperation between the North and the South. It has also made it possible to implant confidence in peace and reunification in all the fellow countrymen who have been waiting for the appearance of tangible results in improving relations between the North and the South after effectuating the North-South basic agreement.

Delegates of the North side: We reached an agreement on the problem of forming implementation organizations at the current talks and, thus, have provided the institutional device which makes it possible to open the era of reconciliation and cooperation. With the opening of the North-South liaison office at Panmunjom we have a channel which makes it possible to smoothly carry out liaison activities and discussions between both sides.

Considering the fact that many personnel and material exchanges and cooperation, exchanges of mail and communications, and the holding of various meetings and contacts will be briskly conducted in the future between the North and the South, the establishment of the North-South liaison office at Panmunjom will perform the catalytic action of installing a new bridge on the severed relations between the North and the South and linking the severed bloodline between the North and the South.

When the Joint Military Committee is inaugurated, this will become the first step for the implementation of nonaggression between the North and the South and will be a precious base of nourishment for preserving peace on the Korean peninsula.

I hope the Joint Military Committee will sincerely fulfill its function as clearly stated in the South-North agreement so that military trust between the South and North can be created and gradual arms reduction can be realized.

Moreover, when the Joint Committee for Exchange and Cooperation in the fields of economy, society, and culture is inaugurated, a basis will be provided for smooth human exchanges, travel, and communications as well as exchange and cooperation in the fields of society and culture, including the economic field.

By carrying out free exchange and cooperation among the people, material, and information between the South and North, it will be possible to deepen each other's understanding and trust. Also, if national ties and homogeneity are restored, it will be possible to greatly contribute to restoring national community.

To contribute to improving relations between the South and North, I believe that most all of these implementing organizations, which have important responsibilities, will have to be sincerely managed so that they will be in accordance with the spirit of the agreement.

Within the framework of the high-level talks and under the guidance and mediation of the senior delegates of both sides, the joint committee and the South-North liaison office must fulfill the role of putting into practice the agreed upon details of the high-level talks.

By sincerely putting into practice visible works to open the doors of reconciliation and cooperation, I truly hope that the implementation organizations which will be formed by 18 May, will pave the main road for peace and prosperity.

Delegates from the North side:

Today's event, where we gave birth to implementation organizations, has been a very peaceful event, but it does not mean that all problems have been solved. There are still so many things that we have to do and the road that we have to move toward is by no means near.

The nation's peace and prosperity provide the main road for reunification and a fundamental point in uniting the nation into one. We must free ourselves from the remnants of division and distrust as soon as possible in order to help and cooperate with one other. By so doing, it is time for us to proudly hold hands together to enhance the nation's dignity and self-esteem.

If we maintain our past confrontational relations in the international competitive era, where all countries and nations of the world are pursuing their own interest, we will once again be shoved out to the edge of world history.

As the past century's history has taught us, without strength, we cannot achieve true independence. Also, when recollecting what kind of results were brought about in our national history due to the policy of isolation by our ancestors, it will be clear that independence does not mean isolation from the international community.

I believe that the South-North basic agreement is a document which firmly vows to achieve by ourselves the national history of reunification and prosperity by concentrating our nation's independent force.

Also, peace does not come from the outside. It is achieved when we, independently, actively create a condition of solid peace.

Therefore, to establish genuine peace, all fellow countrymen in the North and South should build up confidence through exchanges and cooperation. They should, above all, realize reconciliation in their hearts. Reconciliation in their hearts will lead to great national unity.

If one side tries to ignore the other's government authority and law and order and to destroy and overthrow it, great national unity cannot be rooted.

Today when the North-South basic agreement has been officially validated between the responsible authorities of both sides and enters the stage of implementation, if acts seen in North-South relations at the confrontation era are repeated, this will do nothing but greatly disappoint all fellow countrymen.

The great national unity should start to expand what all fellow countrymen have in common in a bid to achieve unity. The great national unity cannot be achieved through political agitation aimed at a minority. I hope that the delegations of the North-South high- level talks will see this issue from the broader point of view. I hope that they will again keep in mind their mission of opening the century of hope and vitality for our nation.

The North side's delegates: We should constantly promote the work for the annexed agreements which deal with concrete and practical measures to implement and abide by the related contents of the North-South basic agreement. Both sides should first draw up an annexed agreement, which is possible for them to agree upon. Then, both sides should constantly make an effort to settle any contents that are not agreed upon and any new contents that arise through negotiations.

In addition, I regret that the Jopint Nuclear Control Committee failed to make a breakthrough regarding mutual nuclear inspections between the North and the South, a task which should be discussed and solved at the current seventh round of North-South high-level talks without fail. After adopting and effectuating the historic North-South basic agreement, today both sides have gone so far as to agree on the inauguration of its implementation organization, and your side should perform its responsibility for solving the question of mutual nuclear inspections, which is a most basic and pressing task in preserving peace on the Korean peninsula.

I once again point out that this is by nature not a problem that can be left undone or hushed up by idling away time, but an urgent and important national task which the responsible authorities of both sides should solve at the earliest possible date.

At the same time, it is fortunate that the issue of exchanging home visiting groups of separated families on or around the 15 August national liberation day has been agreed upon at the seventh round of the North-South high-level talks. I hope that the separated families issue will be completely settled by taking advantage of the home-visiting exchange.

The North side's delegates: We now are entering the stage of concretely putting into practice the North-South basic agreement. We can vigorously open the new era of reconciliation and cooperation. I once again appreciate the efforts of both sides' delegates who have taken pain day and night to achieve such results, utilizing one day as if it were ten days.

Let us all together pledge to make efforts to fill all the land with waves of reconciliation and cooperation by achieving greater results at the eighth round of the North-South high-level talks to be held in Pyongyang.

I hope that the remaining itinerary of the North side's delegates will be pleasant and meaningful.

I really thank the delegates and the many people who have made efforts to achieve success at the talks, the desire of all fellow countrymen.

Thank you.

North Premier Makes Closing Speech at N-S Talks

SK0705051392 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0213 GMT 7 May 92

[Closing remarks by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, at the second-day session of the seventh round of North-South high-level talks held at the Shilla Hotel in Seoul on 7 May—live]

[Text] Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and delegates of the South side:

The seventh round of the North-South high-level talks, held amid the great expectations of the entire nation and the interest of the world, is soon to end after fulfilling its mission.

The current round of talks was a meaningful meeting that took realistic measures designed to put into practice what had been agreed upon by the two sides in the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange between the North and South and summed up, in the manner of teaching a lesson, the work of the past three months aimed at implementing the agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization, which was put into effect at the sixth round of talks held in Pyongyang.

During the current round of talks, the two sides have adopted and put into effect agreements on the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Military Committee and the North-South Joint Cooperation and Exchange Committee and an agreement on forming and operating the North-South liaison office. Thus, the two sides have created conditions enabling the two sides to translate the North- South agreement into action by forming joint committees within 10 days.

Also, the two sides have agreed upon inaugurating a North-South Joint Reconciliation Committee aimed at implementing a portion of the North-South agreement dealing with reconciliation before the eighth round of the North-South high-level talks and on working out an annexed agreement on the portion dealing with nonaggression before 1 September, an annexed agreement on the portion dealing with cooperation and exchange before 5 September, and an annexed agreement on the portion dealing with reconciliation before the convening of the eighth round of talks.

At the same time, the two sides agreed on exchanging visiting groups of elderly people and art troupes simultaneously, as a special case, on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the 15 August national liberation and by doing so, they have come to produce the first precious gift for the nation as part of the implementation of the North-South agreement.

By doing so, we have taken another giant step toward peace and reunification of the country.

The successes attained as a result of the current seventh round of the talks clearly show the will of the two sides, the North and South, to implement the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization that have already been put into effect without any variation.

In particular, the fact that the two sides have agreed on exchanging the visiting groups of elderly people and art troupes on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of national liberation has demonstrated at home and abroad the new look of the high-level talks which have entered a stage of translating the agreements into action and we are convinced that this will offer great joy to the entire nation.

With the sixth round of the talks as a starting point, we have made a first step toward reconciliation, detente, and reunification between the North and South. Our pace may be slow and the path we advance along may be treacherous. Nevertheless, we are running forward, seeing a bright prospect in the expectations and support of fellow countrymen.

This is another encouraging development of the situation enabling the entire nation to look down the horizon called reunification before the end of the nineties from a new hill of history. Nevertheless, we cannot afford to be content with what we have achieved; we have to run forward more vigorously to connect the severed national blood lines and recover the lost history of the resourceful ethnic people at an early date.

To step up our march toward reunification, we should display the lofty sense of responsibility in dealing with the documents of the North-South agreement and with the joint declaration of denuclearization which both the North and South solemnly pronounced to the people at home and abroad. Along with the 4 July North-South joint statement, the documents of the North- South agreement and the joint declaration of denuclearization are historic joint documents of North-South agreement which serve as a milestone to the fatherland's reunification.

The parties which have signed the documents of agreement are precisely the North and South and the masters who have guaranteed their implementation are also the North and South. So we should faithfully fulfill what we have agreed upon strictly based on an independent stand and according to the nation's interest. This is an attitude and responsibility which the delegates of our two sides must always maintain and assume.

At this juncture when a turning point toward national unity and reunification is occuring, our compatriots are raising great expectations over the activities of our two sides' delegates who are entrusted with an important mission to accelerate the country's reunification and to advance the nation's history. Our two sides should realize their duties before the nation and the times and, as they have already agreed, should complete what is not yet done in drawing up the agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Reconciliation Committee and the annexed agreements to be implemented by individual joint committees. By so doing, we should make every effort to ensure that all joint committees are put into operation at an early date.

The North and South, which have pledged to break off with the past of antagonism and confrontation, should no longer remain as adversaries or aliens to each other. As compatriots who pledged to move forward together for unity and reunification, they should pool their strength and should do only what is favorable for reunification.

The widely paved way to reunification must never be barricaded again. Through positive practice, all of us should continue to ceaselessly widen the nation's road to reunification in compliance with the new climate in which progress in talks is made.

Delegates of the South side: Presently, the whole nation and the entire world are impatiently hoping that the North-South agreement and the joint declaration of denuclearization will be put into practice completely and the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland will be realized as soon as possible. If both the North and South deal with the North-South agreement and the joint declaration of denuclearization with a stand toward reunification and implement them faithfully, we will undoubtedly be able to present to our compatriots a gift more meaningful than what we have prepared today and will be able to produce a fruit favorable to the country's peace and its reunification.

Finally, I promise to meet Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and all other delegates of the South side again at the eighth round of talks to be held in September and end my closing speech at the seventh round of the North-South high-level talks. Thank you.

North Delegation Leaves for Pyongyang

SK0805015092 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] The North side's delegation, which came to Seoul to participate in the seventh round of the South-North high-level talks, left the [Shilla] Hotel for Pyongyang at about 0940 this morning after concluding its 4-day schedule in Seoul.

The North side's delegation will arrive at the House of Peace in our side's region of Panmunjom at 1040 and return to the North through the Military Demarcation Line at 1100.

Earlier, Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and North side's Premier Yon Hyong-muk bade farewell at the hotel and promised to meet again in Pyongyang when the eighth round of the high-level talks is held on 15 September.

During this farewell meeting, Prime Minister Chong gave Premier Yon an album of photographs of the premier and the North side's delegation taken during their stay in Seoul.

North side spokesman An Pyong-su read a statement before leaving the hotel. In the statement, he assessed the agreement between the two sides on exchanging visiting groups of displaced families and forming joint committees as a great success.

Some china goods, electronics goods, and sugar contained in the North side delegation's baggage forwarded to Panmunjom this morning drew attention.

Spokesman Calls N-S Talks 'Satisfactory'

SK0705050892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0449 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (OANA-YONHAP)—Talks between the South and North Korean prime ministers over the last two days "fell short of expectations, but were satisfactory," South Korean Spokesman Yi Tong-pok said Thursday.

Hardest had been reaching the agreement on forming a Joint Military Committee, Yi told reporters after announcing that a news conference with North Korean spokesman An Pyong-su had been canceled at the last minute.

"All the contents of the prime ministers' talks were held in open conference and broadcast on radio and television. North Korean delegation decided there was no need to hold a joint press conference," he said.

The talks ended after signing and effectuating agreements to open liaison offices at the truce village of Panmunjom and form joint military, economic exchanges and cooperation, and social and cultural exchanges and cooperation committees on May 18.

The two Koreas agreed to arrange reunions for elderly members of separated families on Aug. 15, Liberation Day.

Asked about lack of progress on inter-Korean nuclear talks, he said it was "not an appropriate time" to make headway.

Southern Prime Minister Chong Won-sik had said in his closing speech that Seoul and Pyongyang must hold mutual nuclear inspections, Yi said.

"The Joint Nuclear Control Committee (JNCC) meets on May 12. Let's see what happens then," he said.

There was a timetable for mutual nuclear inspections, he said.

"There are certain situations, situations that concern people who suspect North Korea of trying to develop nuclear weapons. We must consider what these people, what other concerned nations and international organizations say. This is what determines the timetable," Yi said.

He said the two sides must adopt subsidiary pacts in order to put the joint committees into operation, but there were "many differences" on the number and contents of the subsidiary pacts.

Says Talks 'Met Our Expectations'

SK0805074992 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 8 May 92 p 3

[Reporter Mun Ho Yong's compilation of unidentified reporters' interview with Yi Tong-pok, ROK spokesman for the North-South high-level talks at Seoul's Shilla Hotel on 7 May; first two paragraphs are reporter's note]

[Text] Yi Tong-pok, spokesman for the North-South high-level talks, visited the reporters' room on the third floor of the Shilla Hotel immediately after the second-day open-door session of the seventh round of North-South high-level talks on 7 May and expressed his satisfaction saying: Although the result was not quite what we wished, the seventh round of talks in Seoul met our expectations for success.

Spokesman Yi stressed: The implementing organizations for the North-South agreement whose formation and operation was agreed to at the seventh round of talks will not be implemented until the annexed agreements are made, therefore, we should not anticipate an immediate change in the relations between North and South.

[Reporter] What was the most difficult area in reaching an agreement at the talks?

[Yi Tong-pok] Physically, the adoption of the agreement on the formation and operation of the joint military commission was the most difficult part. Pak Yong-ok, chairman of our side, and Kim Yong-chol, chairman of the North side, had an overnight contact and managed to complete adjusting the agreement's text at 0600.

[Reporter] It seems that no progress has been made concerning the Joint Nuclear Control Commission.

[Yi] We were not in the position to make special progress concerning the Joint Nuclear Control Commission. Since we set the date of the fourth round of the meeting of the commission for 12 May, we anticipate that it will be sufficiently discussed at that time.

[Reporter] Have you reached an agreement on the form of the annexed agreements?

[Yi] The two sides have some differences in their positions, but they agreed that there can be more than one agreement.

[Reporter] Have you discussed making an exchange of displaced families' home visits a routine and continuing process?

[Yi] The agreed upon home visit of displaced families is an event to celebrate the 47th anniversary of national liberation. There was no discussion on making it a routine and continuing process.

[Reporter] Judging from the result of the talks, it seems that the North side has considerably changed its attitude.

[Yi] The two sides shared the underlying view that North-South relations should demonstrate practical change now that the North-South agreement has been effectuated.

[Reporter] Which side do you think made more concessions?

[Yi] Both sides made concessions. Our side did not make any particularly great concession.

Sides Agree on Rules for Mutual Inspections

SK0805055792 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 8 May 92 p 1

[Text] North and South Korea have agreed to hold their own inspections of each other's nuclear facilities by mid-June separate from inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

Kong No-myong and Choe U-chin, chairmen of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Commission met several times during the North-South high-level talks and agreed to provide a single set of rules for nuclear inspection of each other's facilities.

They also reconfirmed that mutual inspections would be made within 20 days after adopting the inspection rules. Therefore, it is anticipated that inspections will be made by mid-June as scheduled.

The two sides are supposed to conduct final negotiations for the inspection rules at the Joint Nuclear Control Commission meeting on 12 May.

A government source on 8 May said: The North and South agreed that mutual inspection, separate from IAEA inspections, should be conducted to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Both sides confirmed that the agreement must be adhered to, and they promised that the Joint Nuclear Control Commission would do its best to keep the deadline.

The source said: The most controversial points between the North and South are the South's call for "the principle of mutuality," the North's demand for "the principle of simultaneous dissolution of distrust," and special inspection proposed by the South. If both sides agree on the general principle of mutual inspections, the technical matters will be resolved easily.

The source said mutual inspection between the North and South is a precondition set forth by the United States and Japan for establishing diplomatic relations and improving relations with North Korea. Our side has also informed the North that mutual nuclear inspection is a precondition for resuming economic cooperation. The source anticipated, therefore, that the North will allow IAEA inspection and then conduct mutual inspection as well.

Yi In-mo 'Captured' at N-S Talks Site

SK0705080192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0603 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—Yi In-mo, 76, a war correspondent for North Korea during the Korean war (1950-53), was captured Thursday in front of the hotel where the 7th inter-Korean high-level talks were being held.

The police, who had been searching for Yi since he vanished May 2, arrested him as he was driving up to the Shilla Hotel in a van.

Yi was taken prisoner in 1952 and held for 34 years because he refused to renounce Marxism-Leninism. He was freed in October 1988 and sent to live in Kimhae, South Kyongsang Province.

He came to Seoul under police escort May 1, but fled the next day.

Yi has pleaded with the government to send him back to North Korea, and North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk asked Seoul to return him during the talks May 6-7.

North To Open 'All' Facilities to Inspection

SK0805024892 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 8 May 92

[Report from Vienna correspondent Cha Man-sun]

[Text] Chon In-chan, North Korean ambassador to Austria, said that North Korea will open all of its nuclear facilities and non- nuclear-related facilities to inspections.

Chon In-chan said yesterday that North Korea will allow inspections of whatever facilities not listed in North Korea's report on nuclear facilities submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] last 4 May.

Previously North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam reportedly promised U.S. Carnegie Foundation researchers on a visit to North Korea that North Korea will allow IAEA inspection of all nuclear facilities in North Korea.

Meanwhile, an IAEA source said that a visit to North Korea by IAEA Secretary General Hans Blix, who is to leave on 11 May, is only a courtesy visit, not for the purpose of nuclear inspections.

This source said that although North Korea regards Hans Blix's visit as a wonderful opportunity for political propaganda aimed at dissipating international concern regarding development of nuclear weapons, Blix's visit is only a courtesy visit, not for the purpose of nuclear inspection.

North Spent $5 Billion on Soviet, Chinese Arms

SK0805092492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0049 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 8 (YONHAP)—North Korea, despite economic hardships, spent 5 billion U.S. dollars on Soviet and Chinese arms between 1986 and mid-1991, a diplomatic source familiar with North Korean military affairs said Thursday.

Pyongyang bought 4.51 billion dollars of military equipment from the Soviets and 499 million dollars of weaponry from China during the period, the source said.

In particular, he said, North Korea imported 25 sophisticated fighters, including MiG-27s, MiG-29s and SU-24s.

The source was skeptical of North Korea's ability to repay its debt to the former Soviet Union of over 2.8 billion dollars given the current economic situation in Pyongyang.

Seoul, Moscow Agree To Sign Trade Accord

SK0705151692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0823 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia agreed Wednesday to push through an accord within the year to replace the Korea-Soviet trade agreement signed in December 1990, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Thursday.

This was decided in working-level talks between No Chang-u, the Trade Ministry's director-general for trade promotion, and V. Koptsevsky, director-general for Asia of the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry.

The two countries agreed in principle to work out a mechanism for economic cooperation, an investment guarantee pact and a double taxation avoidance treaty, a spokesman said.

They would positively review holding a trade ministers meeting this year to materialize economic cooperation, he said. Unrest in Moscow last October derailed plans for a meeting then.

In addition, the two countries will launch a working-level trade affairs committee headed by directors-general as a channel to facilitate smooth cooperation.

Koptsevsky came to Korea with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin.

No Tae-u Urges Closer Cooperation With Taiwan

SK0805033992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 8 May 92 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u told a Taiwanese envoy yesterday that Seoul and Taipei should cooperate to reduce their respective trade deficit with Japan.

Both South Korea and Taiwan are experiencing increasing trade deficits with Japan. South Korea suffered a shortfall of about $8.8 billion in trade with Japan last year, and Taiwan $9.6 billion.

"The two countries should cooperate not only to promote bilateral economic ties but to correct the trade deficits among countries in Northeast Asia," No was quoted as telling Tsiang Yien-si, a Taiwanese envoy.

Tsiang, secretary-general to Taiwanese President Li Teng-hui, arrived in Seoul Wednesday [6 May], leading a nine-member delegation for a four-day visit.

The visit is aimed at discussing bilateral ties amid growing prospects for the establishment of diplomatic ties between Seoul and Beijing, government officials said.

Meeting the Taiwanese envoy at Chongwadae, No emphasized that the two countries should exert joint efforts for mutually beneficial ties and for "balanced" development in Northeast Asia.

He also said he was impressed by Taiwan's sustained economic growth and its efforts for political reform, a presidential spokesman said.

Tsiang conveyed to No a letter from Taiwanese President Li, the spokesman said. The contents of the letter were not known.

No presented the envoy with the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit, or the Kwanghwa Medal.

Before visiting Chongwadae, Tsiang met with Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and exchanged views on bilateral issues.

Tsiang called on Seoul to refrain from rushing diplomatic ties with Beijing, a ministry spokesman said.

"We understand Seoul's position of pushing expanded economic ties with Beijing, but we hope that Seoul will exercise prudence as far as political matters are concerned," the envoy was quoted as saying.

Minister Yi replied that despite its improving relationship with Beijing, Seoul intends to remain on good terms with Taiwan.

Yi explained Seoul's "northern diplomacy," a policy designed to improve relations with socialist and Communist countries.

The minister was quoted as telling the Taiwanese envoy that the northern policy is ultimately aimed at securing peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and realizing national reunification.

Government Team Returns From Los Angeles

SK0805125592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1003 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 8 (YONHAP)—A South Korean delegation to riot-torn Los Angeles returned to Seoul Friday evening after meeting with U.S. officials and Korean resident leaders on rebuilding Koreatown from last week's riot.

"The situation there was shocking," Assistant Foreign Minister Ho Sung, head delegate, said. "The delegation's on-site survey was very useful," he said.

The government will announce full-scale measures on helping the Korean residents in Los Angeles after thorough inter-ministerial negotiations, Ho said.

One Korean-American collegian died from gunfire during the L.A. riot, and property damage to Koreatown is roughly assessed at over 300 million U.S. dollars.

The delegation was in Los Angeles from May 4 and met with L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley and other U.S. officials on support measures for the Korean residents.

Kim Tae-chung Returns From L.A. Trip

SK0705235892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1147 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, coleader of the major opposition Democratic Party [DP], and other DP members returned home Thursday after a three-day fact-finding trip to riot-torn Los Angeles.

"Our government should immediately render 100 million dollars in grant or long-term low-interest loans to Koreans in Los Angeles," Kim said upon arrival at Seoul's Kimpo International Airport.

He said the riot incurred property damages of some 300 million dollars to Korean-Americans. He said his party would fully cooperate with the government and the ruling party for the early provision of financial support for the Korean community in Los Angeles.

Burma

Foreign Minister Views Recent Political Moves

BK0805011392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 May 92 p 10

[By Anurat Maniphan in Rangoon]

[Text] Rangoon—Recent changes in Burma were in the pipeline and not implemented because the leadership found itself in a tight position, Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw said yesterday.

"We do not have any difficulty politically, militarily, or economically," U Ohn Gyaw said in an interview with Thai journalists.

"There is no basis at all for those to speculate that we have to change our stand simply because we feel that we are in a tight position—which we are not," he added.

The decision to hold a dialogue with members of parliament in two months and a national convention within six months thereafter merely reiterated Declaration 1/90 issued in July 1990, he stated.

The novelty of Declaration 11/92—announced on April 24—lies in the time frame given for each stage.

The minister said the dialogue seeks to establish who and how many people should be invited to the national convention, as well as where it should be held.

The purpose of the national convention is to set guidelines for the constitution which will be drafted by elected representatives, he said.

Asked about a transfer of power to members of Parliament elected in May 1990, he said such an event would be "very difficult" until there is a new constitution.

The 1974 Constitution was "kept in abeyance" at the time of the general election because the socialist principles it advocated were deemed unsuitable to the "market-oriented" direction required by the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] since 1988, he argued.

Declaration 11/92 also provides for the release of prisoners, whom the minister said largely had been detained under Section 10-B of the Security Act.

But Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi will continue to be held "so long as she is considered a security threat," he added. Her National League for Democracy won a landslide victory in the May 1990 general elections.

A total of 58 political prisoners, of whom 18 are described as former members of parliament, have been released since May 1. Most sources say there are some 2,000 more prisoners languishing in jails in the country.

The latest moves were announced one day after a key change in the military leadership whereby Gen Saw Maung was replaced by his former deputy Gen Than Shwe as chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

Gen Than Shwe also stepped into his shoes as Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, prime minister and defence minister.

Mr U Ohn Gyaw categorically rejected as "rubbish" sugestions that former president Ne Win was behind the moves.

He indicated that this was the purpose of U Ne Win taking out an advertisement in the WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY on May 5 calling on government offices and army command to remove his photographs.

The retired general had been "a little irritated" at his name being invoked "whenever there is something this way or that way," the foreign minister said.

But by the same token, U Ne Win who has been out of public life for three years also regained attention, Rangoon Residents noted.

U Ohn Gyaw emphasised that the 81-year-old Ne Win had "retired" from political life. But the minister conceded that some present leaders may have taken after his "approach" to issues because they were "trained" by long years of working with him.

U Ohn Gyaw confirmed there will be no shift in Rangoon's policy towards Thailand as a result of the changes, rather that there will be an "added emphasis" in the closeness of relations between military leaders of the two countries.

He affirmed that Rangoon is satisfied with Thailand's "constructive engagement" policy. "We cannot choose our neighbours, we can choose friends so we have to be friendly neighbours. We are," he pointed out.

The Burmese foreign minister stressed that the problem of Muslim refugees is a bilateral problem between Burma and Bangladesh. He said the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had "no role" in the solution of the problem, except, if need be, in the provision of financial support and relief supplies.

The two countries yesterday signed in Dhaka at ambassadorial level an agreement providing for the forms of the repatriation, he said.

Among other things, the arrangement provides for Bangladeshi authorities to send to Burma lists of returnees six days in advance and for reception centres to be set up in Burmese territory adjacent to existing camps in Bangladesh.

Eight More Political Prisoners Released

BK0705142392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Film director Moe Thu alias U Tin Myint, former member of the National League for Democracy [NLD] Panel of Chairmen against whom action was taken under existing laws in December 1989 and who was serving his sentence, and comedian Ah Yaing alias Maung Aung Than Oo, against whom action was taken under existing laws in May 1990 and who was serving his sentence, were released from Insein Central Jail today in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] issued on 24 April 1992.

Maung Soe Thein, Ma Thuzar, Dr. Htay Kywe, and Dr. Daw Khin Thwin, against whom action was taken under existing laws in October 1989 and who were serving their sentences, and U Kyaw Kyaw, against whom action was taken under existing laws in February 1989 and who was serving his sentence, were also released from Insein Central Jail today in accordance with the SLORC's Declaration No. 11/92.

Similarly, Dr. U Maw, against whom action was taken under existing laws in September 1991 and who was serving his sentence at Toungoo Jail, was released from Toungoo Jail today in accordance with SLORC's Declaration No. 11/92.

Responsible officials from the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence went to the Insein Central Jail this evening, explained SLORC's Declaration No. 11/92, and read out the Order of the Ministry of Home Affairs concerning the reduction of jail terms to those who would be released. They were then allowed to meet their family members and were released.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Review of 2d Causeway With Singapore Urged

BK0605135792 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 5 May 92 p 2

[By Ismail Kassim]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat yesterday proposed a review of the second link between Singapore and Johor in the light of what he described as unfriendly signals from the Republic.

Speaking to reporters in the Parliament lobby, he said the project should be postponed, if necessary.

Datuk Mohamed, who is also UMNO [United Malays National Organization] secretary-general, is the most senior official from the Federal government to urge a rethink of the multi-million ringgit project.

He plans to raise the matter with Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

Last Tuesday, Kota Setar MP [Member of Parliament] Wan Hanafiah Wan Mat Saman said the second link should be cancelled in retaliation against measures by Singapore to impose restrictions on the entry of Malaysian vehicles.

Datuk Mohamed gave two reasons for his proposal. He claimed that lately, Singapore had given the impression that it did not want to have close co-operation with Malaysia.

He accused Singapore of being selfish, thinking only of its own interests without any consideration for the feelings of its neighbours.

Another factor which he cited was the resentment of the Gelang Patah residents who would be affected by the project. Hence, many of them opposed the link. Datuk Mohamed, who is an MP of that area, made the same call on Sunday night at Kampung Ladang near Johor Baru.

Though growth would be slower, he said, development in the area could still go on even if the bridge project was cancelled.

The proposed Malaysian $1.6 billion (Singapore $1 billion) bridge to link Tuas in Singapore with Gelang Patah was approved by the Malaysian Cabinet a few years ago.

According to Datuk Mohamed, Singapore needs Malaysia. Its leaders should therefore make greater efforts to preserve close collaboration between the two countries.

"I feel that attitudes in Singapore must change. I like Singapore to declare its stand on the second link," he added.

In his speech in Johor on Sunday, Datuk Mohamed said: "We're a bit uneasy with Singapore's attitude now.... The many things that they do seem to tell us they do no want to have understanding and good co-operation."

Datuk Mohamed said that if the government decided to proceed with the second link, it should ensure that the 200 families in Gelang Patah who would be directly affected by the project be adequately compensated.

Pulai UMNO would provide legal advice to them as well as other Gelang Patah residents affected by the area's redevelopment to ensure that they received reasonable compensation, he added.

Government Undecided About Trade Office in CIS

BK0705111092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0954 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 7 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia has yet to decide on the establishment of a trade office in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) because of their sociopolitical and economic instability, the Dewan Rakyat (lower house of Parliament) was told Thursday.

Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Chua Jui Meng said the Malaysian Trade Commission in Moscow was responsible for trade matters relating to the former Soviet republics.

He added that despite the uncertain situation, the transition to an open economic system in those states would provide greater marketing opportunities for Malaysia.

He said the government would continue to monitor developments in the CIS and all relevant information would be channelled to the private sector.

The government would be open-minded in fostering bilateral relations with those states even though they might take some time to adjust to new system and faced financial problems in importing goods under the free trade system, he added.

"Local chambers of commerce and companies have been informed about the trade organisations in the CIS, including the former Islamic republics like Uzbekistan," he said.

He added that bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and Malaysia in trade and tourism would be extended to other Islamic states in CIS like Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan.

Ghafar Confident of Ruling Front Victory in Sabah

BK0705171892 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Ghafar Baba, said signs of a Barisan Nasional, BN, victory in Sabah were becoming increasingly distinct, particularly with the support of the Chinese community. He said the Chinese community had lost confidence in the ruling Parti Bersatu Sabah [Sabah United Party], PBS, following the decline in business opportunities in the state, particularly in Kota Kinabalu.

Encik [Mr.] Ghafar said next time elections were held, the people in Sabah should not let the opportunity of supporting the BN slip by so that together they could enjoy progress like their counterparts in the peninsula. He said the BN has never been hostile to the PBS. But on the contrary, it was the PBS which divorced the BN and now they admit they have made a mistake.

Encik Ghafar was speaking at the "meet the people" session at Kampung Meliau in Pulau Banggi [Banggi Island]. Pulau Banggi, lying about 45 kilometers off the Kudat coast in North Sabah, is one of the poorest areas in the state.

Cambodia

Sihanouk To Give Monthly People's Audience

BK0805070492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 May 92

["Message from His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, to his children, grandchildren, and compatriots"—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed and beloved children, grandchildren, and compatriots:

I, Samdech Euv [Prince Father] Norodom Sihanouk, have received over 10 requests for special audiences every month.

As all esteemed and beloved children, grandchildren, and compatriots, everyday, I am always engaged in national and international issues in the service of our people, nation, and motherland.

I have had no spare time nor time to rest (?even on) Saturdays and Sundays. Therefore, I am unable to give special audiences.

In this regard, I would like all esteemed and beloved children, grandchildren, and compatriots to please understand me.

I would like to ask esteemed and beloved children, grandchildren, and compatriots who desire to request special audiences with me to please agree to let me receive all of you together in a monthly people's audience as I used to do in the 1950's and 1960's, that is in the Sangkum Reas Niyum era.

The people's audience will be held at Phochani Throne Hall in the Royal Palace.

I would like to express warmest and deepest thanks to all esteemed and beloved children, grandchildren, and compatriots for understanding me.

[Signed] Phnom Penh, 6 May 1992
[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk.

Sihanouk Informs People of Medical Checkup

BK0805070092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian GMT 7 May 92

["Message from His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia to his children, grandchildren, and compatriots"—read by announcer]

[Text] Venerable monks; dear children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and compatriots:

I, Samdech Euv [Prince Father] Norodom Sihanouk, am honored to inform the venerable monks, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and compatriots of the details of the results of the thorough medical checkup conducted by the prominent and skillful doctors of the PRC who, with kindness and great sentiment of friendship, have always given good care to my health during my stays in Beijing.

The details of the results mentioned above are full of medical and technical terms. Therefore, I would like to ask the venerable monks and dear compatriots to please just take note of the [separate] briefing on my health condition mentioned in the first part of the clear medical report prepared by the prominent PRC doctors who have always paid keen attention, with fraternal feelings, to my health.

I would like to express my deepest salutations, reverence, and respects to all venerable monks, and greatest love to all compatriots, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

May all venerable monks and compatriots enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 6 May 1992
[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

Khmer Rouge in 'Hot Seat' as SNC Meets

BK0805072492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0414 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 8—Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) met here Thursday with Khmer Rouge representatives in the hot seat over their faction's reported cease-fire violations, AFP reports.

diplomats said the main topic would be when to declare the second phase of the U.N. sponsored peace plan, which calls for U.N. peacekeepers to go beyond observing the cease-fire and start disarming the four rival armies.

They said the Khmer Rouge would be asked for a solid pledge to respect the cease-fire, which U.N. military sources said was shattered late last week by a series of Khmer Rouge attacks in Kompong Thom Province.

Senior Khmer Rouge Official Chan Youran, walking to the meeting with the factions's official leader Khieu Samphan, refused to accept responsibility for the fighting in Kompong Thom.

"Declaring phase two is the best way to solve the cease-fire violations", he said.

Phase two calls for 70 percent of each Army to be demobilized with the others placed in U.N. suprevised cantonments.

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) is eager to obtain an effective cease-fire so it can declare a starting date for phase two by Saturday, U.N. sources said.

UNTAC Chief Yasushi Akashi said Monday in New York that the arrival of U.N. troops in Cambodia would also have to be speeded up if phase two is to begin on schedule June 1.

Since the peace plan calls for the declaration to be made at least four weeks before the start of phase two, a Saturday declaration would put the peace plan at least one week behind schedule.

Diplomatic sources expect the actual starting date to be closer to June 13.

UN Vows To Start Disarming Factions in June

BK0805081492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0801 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 8 (AFP)—U.N. troops will start disarming Cambodia's rival armies in early June, U.N. General John Sanderson announced Friday, after a week of intense diplomatic activity to prevent the biggest U.N. operation ever from falling behind schedule.

"We anticipate that we will have sufficient United Nations troops in Cambodia in early June to proceed with phase two of the cease-fire," said Sanderson, who heads the military side of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

"At least eight battalions" or nearly 7,000 peacekeepers will have arrived by then, some possibly by airlift, he said.

Phase two involves disarming an estimated 200,000 Cambodian soldiers and guerrillas, with 70 percent of each Army to be demobilized and the remainder troops to be placed in 55 U.N.-supervised cantonments.

Sanderson said he would announce the precise starting date Saturday after obtaining firm pledges from generals of the rival factions to respect the cease-fire, mark their minefields and allow U.N. peacekeepers free access to all areas.

Phase two was targetted to begin on June 1. But Sanderson warned last week that it might have to be postponed until October, after the rainy season, due to a lack of U.N. personnel and failure to cooperate by some of the factions, U.N. sources and diplomats said.

"The delay would have spelled disaster for the peace plan," a senior diplomat said. "Politically, there is no way we could have allowed the battalions that are already here to sit on their hands for six months doing nothing."

The October Paris peace treaty calls for the United Nations to disarm the rival factions, bring home some 370,000 refugees and prepare Cambodia for free elections by May 1993—a date that U.N. member countries are determined not to push back.

Fears of a delay were compounded by fighting between Khmer Rouge guerrillas and government troops May 4 and 5 in Kompong Thom Province, preventing the deployment of U.N. troops who have vowed only to observe the cease-fire and not to enforce it.

U.N. officials and diplomats responded by seeking ways to speed up the arrival of U.N. troops in Cambodia—where only two full battalions are deployed so far—and by putting pressure on the Khmer Rouge, whom they privately accused of starting the latest fighting.

The Khmer Rouge, whose genocidal rule over Cambodia lasted from 1975 to 1979, emerged after being ousted from power as the strongest of three guerrilla groups fighting the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government.

While Sanderson's annoncement allayed fears that implementation of the U.N. peace plan would fall seriously behind schedule, it raised new doubts about how well the job would be done.

One week ago, Sanderson told AFP he needed close to 16,000 men to carry out phase two of the cease-fire—more than twice as many as he has been promised by early June.

UN Says Fighting Eases in Kompong Thom

BK0805072292 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0411 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 8—Fighting appeared to have eased Thursday in central Cambodia's Kompong Thom Province with U.N. officials reporting a single cease-fire violation overnight, AFP reports.

A United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) spokesman said 25 artillery shells had been fired at a position northeast of Kompong Thom city late Wednesday but no new fighting was reported Thursday morning.

U.N. military sources and diplomats, however, accuse the Khmer Rouge of launching a series of attacks on villages in the Sen River Valley to protect their main north-south supply route ahead of the full deployment of UNTAC peacekeepers.

A senior U.N. military source said the Khmer Rouge had captured at least three villages and consolidated the supply route, but Phnom Penh Deputy Defense Minister Ke Kimyan denied that any government-held villages had fallen.

The cease-fire violations were at the center of discussions at a Supreme National Council meeting under way in Phnom Penh, where the Khmer Rouge were expected to come under pressure to observe the cease-fire so the U.N. sponsored peace plan can move into second phase, diplomats said.

Phnom Penh Violations in Kompong Thom Discussed

BK0805035492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian
2330 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] According to a report, on 4 (?May), the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh faction fired hundreds of shells from 122-mm mortars and BM-14 and BM-21 multiple rocket launchers into (Ta Lek) and Kon K'ek villages, killing 14 inhabitants and four pregnant women, wounding seven others, and burning down many of the people's houses.

This constitutes a gross violation of the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991 and particularly the cease-fire accord in Kompong Thom Province signed on 1 April 1992 by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and the Mixed Military Working Group of the four Cambodian factions.

The people in Kon K'ek and (Ta Lek) in Kompong Svay District of Kompong Thom Province demand that UNTAC and the Supreme National Council take very effective and strict measures to verify the withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces from Cambodia and Kompong Thom Province and to demobilize the Armed Forces of the four Cambodian factions 100 percent to prevent the Vietnamese and Phnom Penh faction from firing mortar shells and multiple rockets to kill the people at will.

The report also said that at the beginning of April, the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh faction hid 82-mm, 122-mm, and 130-mm mortars and BM-14's and BM-21's in the jungle north of San Kor Township near the hide-out of the forces from 179th Division. It is clear that the mortars and multiple rocket launchers that the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Pemh faction used in killing people in Kon K'ek and (Ta Lek) villages were taken out of this arms cache at San Kor.

Phnom Penh Arms New Recruits on Route 12

BK0805035092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian
2330 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] According to a report from Cambodian soldiers who recently fled from Route 12, Vietnam and the Phnom Penh faction have just sent 500 weapons to arm the new recruits who were sent from the 4th Military Region in Siem Reap Province to join the 5th Division along Route 12.

According to reports that our station has received successively, Vietnam and the Phnom Penh faction have recruited new soldiers to serve in all divisions and regiments. The Vietnam and Phnom Penh factions have done this so that in the coming 70-percent demobilization of the Armed Forces of the four Cambodian factions, only these new recruits will be demobilized, thus keeping their combat forces untouched.

With Vietnam and the Phnom Penh faction playing this same old trick, how can they be trusted? This is cause for the Cambodian national resistance forces to request a clear settlement to the military aspect of the problem, proposing:

1. The deployment of the supervision forces of the United Nations and four Cambodian factions in the eastern part of Cambodia as soon as possible, especially within the month of May.

2. The 100 percent demobilization of all Cambodian factions' Armed Forces.

Further Khmer Rouge Violations Cited 2-5 May

BK0805023092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 May 92

["Report on Khmer Rouge violation of the Paris peace agreement"—read by announcer]

[Text] According to official sources in Kompong Thom Province, the current situation in Kompong Thom Province has not improved but has become even more serious and tense due to the fact that the Khmer Rouge faction have continued nurturing their bellicose designs and carried on its plan to grab land and create turmoil aimed at hindering the Paris peace plan.

These sources stressed that the Khmer Rouge had tried to cut off the communications (? posts) in northern towns of Kompong Thom Province, namely Prasat Sambo, (?Sandan), and Prasat Balang, as well as in Preah Vihear Province.

As a matter of fact, on 5 May, the Khmer Rouge attacked and cut off a stretch of road from Sandan District to Prasat Sambo on coordinates 29/18. [words indistinct] to open up passes on Route 12 leading to (?Kon K'ek) on coordinates 34/09. At the same time in (?Sandan) District, the Khmer Rouge sent two truckloads of ammunition to an area west of O Pou and kidnapped some people there.

They also fired seven H-107 shells into Sandan District, wounding two inhabitants, killing three oxen, and burning down many houses.

In Stoung District, the Khmer Rouge fired seven H-107 shells into an area on coordinates 29/55, but causing no damage.

In Preah Vihear Province, on 2 May, the Khmer Rouge sent infantry troops, supported by artillery shelling, to attack and seize (?Ta Sen) on coordinates (?84/36) in Sangkum Thmei District.

All these new activities of the Khmer Rouge clearly [words indistinct] national and international public opinion. [words indistinct] mistrust toward each other.

Trade Minister Receives PRC Trade Delegation

BK0705060292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] On the morning of 6 May at the Ministry of Trade, Nhim Vanda, member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and trade minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC], held a working session with a PRC trade delegation led by (Jiang Pohua), head of the Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Committee of Guangzhou Province.

At the meeting, Nhim Vanda spoke about a number of important events in Cambodia, particularly since the signing of the Paris peace accord. He asserted that the implementation of the accord is making headway despite some violations committed by the Khmer Rouge. On economic and trade issues, Nhim Vanda said the SOC is currently implementing a market economy.

The two sides had earnest discussions on economic and trade relations and investment, including the exchange of goods and setting up a mixed market under the auspices of the Ministry of Trade. Talking about investment, the Chinese guest proposed investing in restoring and reconstructing cement and textile factories in Cambodia.

Japan's Komeito Chairman Ishida Arrives

OW0705120792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 7 KYODO—Koshiri Ishida, chairman of the centrist party Komeito, arrived in Phnom Penh Thursday on the second leg of his Asian tour of Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia.

The chairman of Japan's second largest opposition party is scheduled to meet Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council, Premier Hun Sen, and officials of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia during his stay in the Cambodian capital. He will visit the Angkor Wat Temple complex built in the 12th century on Saturday.

Ishida is touring the three Asian nations to study their positions on a U.N. peacekeeping cooperation bill that would pave the way for dispatching Japanese troops to join U.N. peacekeeping operations abroad.

Indonesia

Cambodia's Son Sann Meets President Suharto

BK0705121192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0902 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, May 7 (AFP)—Cambodian faction leader Son Sann said here Thursday that he had asked Indonesia to help end the presence of one million Vietnamese he insists are now illegally living in Cambodia.

"This presence risks distorting the future elections and I have asked Indonesia, the co-chairman of the Conference on Cambodia and guarantor of the Paris accords, to make sure they are respected," Son Sann, leader of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), told AFP.

Son Sann said he made the demand Wednesday during a meeting with Indonesia's President Suharto. Jakarta's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas attended that meeting, he said.

Son Sann has long insisted that Vietnamese have remained in Cambodia despite the withdrawal of Hanoi's troops in 1989, railing against Vietnamese prostitutes in Phnom Penh and illegal immigrants that have flooded to Cambodia, where the economy has been bouyed by the Paris plan ending the civil war.

"Vietnamese civilians come to Cambodia every day, the border being open between the two countries due to a treaty signed with the pro-Vietnamese administration of Heng Samrin and Hun Sen," he said.

He added that he rejected the treaty "as illegal, like everything of that government, born of the Vietnamese invasion, of 1979."

Son Sann is a member of the Supreme National Council presided over by Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Hun Sen, Phnom Penh government's prime minister, is concurrently vice president of this council.

"From 350,000 before 1970 and the coup by general Lon Nol, the Vietnamese are today one million" in Cambodia, he said.

Another KPNLF personality, General Thach Reng, said three types of Vietnamese soldiers had infiltrated the ranks of civilians in Cambodia.

"The first category of Bo Dois (the name of the Vietnamese soldiers) is constituted of special forces units implanted in the provinces of Mondul Kiri, Rattana Kiri and String Treng, in the east of Cambodia," he said.

The second, Thach Reng said, is formed of Vietnamese who speak Khmer correctly and wear the uniform of the army of Heng Samrin, the former head of state under the pro-Vietnamese regime, which was not recognized by the United Nations.

They are impossible to spot by the forces of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia. The third category is made up of "officers and non-officers who came back to Phnom Penh and have scattered throughout the capital as merchants, with their own weapons," said Thach Reng.

"They are ready to commit sabotage, including the elections, in collaboration with the special services of the Heng Samrin regime, the A-3," he said.

Son Sann said a pending bill for the first free elections expected before May 1993 was "unjust."

"This bill gives Vietnamese with one parent born in Cambodia the right to vote but not to Cambodians living abroad after having fled the tyranny of the Khmer Rouge or the Vietnamese," Son Sann said.

Son Sann, who came here from Australia, was to go to Singapore Thursday, and then on to Malaysia and Thailand.

Egyptian Envoy Comments on NAM Meeting

BK0705104492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0929 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, May 7 (OANA/ANTARA)—Eyptian Ambassador to Indonesia A. Nabil al-Sillawi believes that the upcoming ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Bali next week is very important since it will discuss the future of the developing countries.

The NAM meeting, the first following the post-cold war era, is crucial for the future of the NAM member countries, Ambassador al-Sillawi told ANTARA here Thursday.

NAM's decision to give high priority on economic issues is very appropriate since most of the developing countries are currently facing economic problems, he said.

The movement should always take care of its member countries and find the best way to solve the problems, the Egyptian ambassador said.

Egypt will most likely reiterate its suggestion that NAM should be merged with G-77 [the Group of 77 countries] since the economic issues are becoming more serious and urgent.

But we will not impose our idea. We will leave this matter for discussion, he said.

However, according to him, NAM also needs to pay attention to political issues since there are still conflicts such as in the Middle East and South Africa.

The ambassador, who will soon terminate his office in Indonesia for another post in Greece, also believes that NAM should become one of the superpowers. But, he added, the movement needs more efforts for this objective.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa will lead his country's delegation to the Bali meeting on May 14-15. The delegation will comprise seven members including Ambassador al-Sillawi who has been holding his post in Indonesia for three years.

Egyptian Minister of Religious Endowments Dr. Muhammad Ali Mahjub is scheduled to arrive here on May 9 for an official visit.

The aim of his visit is to consolidate bilateral relations and cooperation in cultural and religious fields as Dr. Mahjub himself is considered one of the most prominent professors and men of culture in the Middle East, according to Gabir Abdurrahman, deputy chief of the Egyptian Embassy's Information Department, and First Secretary Hossam Kassem.

During his stay, the minister is expected to deliver a written message from President Mubarak to President Suharto and meet his counterpart Minister Munawir Syadzali, with whom they will sign a protocol of bilateral cooperation.

The protocol covers the fields of cooperation in Islamic sciences and Islamic jurisdiction and it calls for organizing cultural works in Cairo and Jakarta as well as a joint meeting between the two countries' scientists and scholars.

It also covers new areas of revitalizing and preserving Islamic architecture.

Minister Mahjub, who was previously scheduled to arrive here on May 6, will also meet Islamic religious figures and deliver lectures in religious institutions here.

Minister: Allow Timor Development Initiatives

BK0605135992 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 25 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Initiatives to develop East Timor should be delegated to the local government for better results, Minister of Manpower Kosmas Batubara said yesterday.

Development in the former Portuguese colony needs to involve the people and placate their demands, Kosmos said in a seminar on human resources development for East Timor.

Kosmas' paper was presented by the secretary-general of the manpower ministry, M. Mud Jiman.

The seminar was initiated by the East Timorese Students Association (Impettu) to seek ideas on proper approaches to development in East Timor, whose economy lags behind most of the other provinces.

The debate during the two day seminar focused on how to attract investors to East Timor and how to achieve political stability there.

Jakarta still has a decisive say in the development of East Timor, 16 years after the province integrated with Indonesia. Jakarta argues that intervention in the province's development is necessary to overcome short-term problems and speed things up.

"East Timorese will voice their aspirations when they have goodwill and a feeling of security," he said in the seminar which featured leading businessmen.

Cosmas refuted charges that the slow pace of development in East Timor was due to inadequate infrastructure, which discourages businesses from investing in the province of 750,000 people.

The problem is that developers in East Timor are unprepared to continue if the results will be the same as they have been in the past. An atmosphere conducive to development has yet to be created," he said.

Kosmas also said that "widespread suspicion" had further aggravated the problem.

"Creating a sense of security and annihilating suspicion is the first thing East Timor should do to continue development," Kosmas said.

The minister called on the students to become liaisons between informal leaders and officials in East Timor.

The government, aware of the social and political implications of the relatively high rate of unemployment, plans to continue sending job seekers off to other provinces. The workers, mostly employed by the private sector in Java, Bali and Kalimantan, are expected to learn skills to be transferred to their colleagues later when they return.

Some students participating in the seminar questioned the effectiveness of the policy, arguing that the job seekers learned skills inappropriate to East Timor.

"Many (of the job seekers) complain that the wages they receive are lower than promised," said a Timorese student from the Brawwijaya University of Malang.

He pointed out that "good policies" from Jakarta were often applied differently in East Timor. "For instance 'people's participation' means that people have to surrender their land for development projects," he said.

Others proposed that the government simplify licensing procedures to attract investors and set clear-cut rules on how to do business in the newest province.

Pro-Democracy Group Urges Election Boycott

BK0705134792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, May 7 (AFP)—An Indonesian pro-democracy group here Thursday called on the country's electorate to help push for greater democracy by not voting in parliamentary elections due to be held in June.

In a statement it handed to the Indonesian parliament announcing the boycott, the Forum for the Purification of People's Sovereignty (FKPR) said electoral absenteeism was "an attitude to encourage more reforms and efforts towards a purer democracy."

The FKPR was set up last August by around 70 people with the goal of returning sovereignty to the Indonesian people, its chairman, retired Army General Hartono Dharsono, said.

The statement said FKPR believed "it is the task of all supporters of democracy and the people's sovereignty to expand the... number of those not voting."

As well as Dharsono, the group's membership includes several other leading dissidents.

The statement along with two letters addressed to the house speaker were handed to the deputy head of the Armed Forces' parliamentary faction, Samsudin by Dharsono and two other leading FKPR members, muslim scholar Deliar Noer and Abdul Majid.

The statement also called on the military not to hinder constitutional efforts towards renewal and democratization.

In one of the letters to the house speaker, the FKPR suggested that all 1,000 members of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), the country's highest legislative body, should be elected as stipulated in the country's Constitution.

It also suggested that MPR's chairmanship be separated from that of the parliament and the body should convene twice every five years instead of once as is does now.

At present, only 400 of the MPR's 1,000 members are elected. One hundred are appointed from the military, and the other 500 are appointed regional representives and those of various socio-professional organizations.

The FKPR also criticized the "unlimited power of the president" and called for a president to be restricted to two terms in office.

Noer said President Suharto, 70, had been in power too long and that "for a change and a better government we need a change of leader too."

Suharto has run unopposed as president since he came to power in 1967.

The FKPR also called for the MPR to select the president by "one man, one vote" instead of the system of "unanimous acclaim" used to choose from between the candidates proposed by each of the assembly's four factions.

In its other letter, the group cited examples of "abuse of power" such as business privileges and monopolies enjoyed by people close to the power, calling for them to be halted.

Ministers Hear Report on National Indicators

BK0605110092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1016 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, May 6 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia recorded a 0.92 per cent inflation rate in April 1992 with consumers' price index standing at 0.92 percent and money in circulation until the end of February totalling 26.252 trillion rupiah, it was announced here on Wednesday.

Information Minister Harmoko, speaking after a limited economic ministers' meeting, said the 0.92 percent inflation followed a 1.23 percent increase in the price index of food group, houses (0.43 percent), clothes (2.28 percent), and miscellaneous goods and services group (0.46 percent).

President Suharto during the meeting asked ministers in charge of oil and fat products group to give attention to the commodities, which had a price increase by 1.65 percent after a 5.21 percent hike in the previous month.

Indonesia enjoyed a U.S.$246.7 million surplus in February with exports recording at U.S.$2.263 billion and imports U.S.$2.166 billion, although the country's total exports during the period dropped in value by 4.1 percent or U.S.$97.7 million against last year's same period due to a decrease in the value of oil and gas exports.

The value of crude oil and gas exports dropped very sharply by 22.3 percent or U.S.$225.8 million because of the decrease in the commodities' price and export volume.

Non-oil exports were valued at U.S.$1.478 billion in February, increasing by 9.5 percent compared with the same period last year or 6.3 percent against the previous month.

Harmoko said the country had a safe national stock of strategic commodities particularly urea, TSP, ZA and KCL fertilizers for the period of April-July.

Fertilizer consumption in Java especially in East Java in April was quite high because farmers started planting ahead of the season because rain fell longer.

Due to the situation, the government increased supplies of urea from the planned 53,000 tons to 102,000 and 550,000 tons in April.

The government would suspend its plans to export urea until July in anticipation of possible consumption increases in May and June, except to meet its commitment with the Tanzanian Government and ASEAN Aceh Fertilizer Co. Ltd.

President Suharto has asked his ministers to make preparations for drought possibilities this year although there have not been any signs of occurrances so far.

The president has asked for advanced measures regarding planting schedules and water supplies preparations including rainmaking plans, Harmoko said.

There have been drought indications in several rivers in Kalimantan creating fears for possibilities of hindrances in log product tranportation.

President Suharto has asked for a study on the potential of man-made rain in supporting transportation of wood products, Harmoko said.

Democracy Forum To Not Deviate From Constitution

BK0705131492 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 27 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Jakarta, 27 Apr—Activities of the Democracy Forum will not deviate from Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. However, the Democracy Forum is committed to upholding its own democratic pillars although such ongoing efforts will be indefinite.

Abdurrahman Wahid as a leader of the Democracy Forum disclosed this to SUARA PEMBARUAN on Saturday evening. "The kind of democracy we want to uphold is a democracy based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. We will not deviate from them," he said.

The remarks by Gus Dur (as Abdurrahman Wahid is affectionately called) were in response to questions by some circles about what the Democracy Forum means by the term democracy.

Philippines

Aquino To Accept Whoever Wins Election

HK0705142892 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 May 92

[By Sonny Casulla]

[Text] President Aquino today said that although she wants Fidel Ramos to win the coming election, she would nevertheless accept whoever wins. This was the president's reaction amid the controversial feud between the Struggle of Filipino Democrats and the Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats. The president stressed she is working toward a peaceful election and would accept whoever is elected president, but hopes that this would be Ramos.

Congressman Claims Existence of Ramos Coup Plot

HK0805041592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Congressman Homobono Adaza has again stressed that former Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats presidential candidate, and his supporters will do anything to ensure a Ramos victory in the coming polls. The senatorial candidate said that he had received several reports saying that Ramos will be the next president of the Philippines whether there is an election on Monday, 11 May, or not. He also said that there is a conspiracy between Ramos and General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, to launch an operation during election day.

European, Canadian Groups To Observe Elections

HK0805063692 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] has announced that it will give two foreign groups the accreditation to observe the 11 May elections. The two groups from Europe and Canada were endorsed to the Comelec by the Democratic Socialist Party.

Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod said the foreign observers will not be allowed stay within 30 meters of the election precincts, as provided by the law. They will only be allowed to approach the precincts during the ballot counting.

Measures To Ensure Orderly, Peaceful Elections

Marine, Navy Units Deployed

HK0705103992 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] A Philippine Marines battalion in full battle gear has arrived in Pangasinan to maintain peace and order in the province during the 11 May polls. Virtous Gil, provincial Philippine National Police commander, said the newly arrived Marine battalion will help preserve peace in the province. The soldiers were immediately deployed to eastern Pangasinan, particularly to the sensitive towns of San Nicolas, San Quintin, Umingan, Natividad, and Balungao, which have been receiving threats from rebel groups.

Meanwhile, a Philippine Navy battalion will also be deployed in Metro Manila to support other military units in relation to the 11 May elections. Here is Rodney Jaleco with the details:

[Begin recording] The battalion, comprising 22 officers and 272 men, is scheduled to be deployed in Metro Manila for the 11 May polls. Navy Chief Rear Admiral Mariano Dumancas has also assigned troops from the Philippine Marines to ensure the safety of Commission on Elections personnel, particularly security for printing ballots. The Navy will use some of its vessels to transport election returns, like the BRP Yakal in Tawi-Tawi; the BRP [Republic of the Philippines Ship] Miguel Malvar in Taganak Island and Mapun Island in Sulu; BRP Quezon in Batanes; BF [Philippine Ship]-374 in Palawan; and the BRP Limasawa in the Kalayaan groups in Batanes. Dumancas added that 4,000 men of the Navy Reserved Officers Training Corps have also been mobilized to help in the elections. [end recording]

Foreigners Given Assurance

HK0805063892 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 8 May 92 p 6

[By Bert Castro]

[Text] The Senate and the Commission on Elections [Comelec] yesterday assured foreigners and the general public as well of a peceful and speedy elections including the swift canvassing of poll certificates to be submitted by city and provincial boards of canvassers.

Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod met with the members of diplomatic community to reassure them of the poll body's preparedness to meet any contingency that may arise during the May 11 elections.

The meeting was prompted by reports of exodus of multinational expatriates to other Asian countries for a week or two to escape a possible outbreak of violence after the elections.

In a separate gathering, reelectionist Senate President Neptali Gonzales said the Senate and the House of Representatives would not allow any "monkey business" in the canvass of the certificates of canvass on May 25.

The two Houses will sit jointly as a Board of Canvassers in determining the authenticity of the certificates of the canvass for the presidency and the vice presidency.

In a joint session assembled, the Congress will create a special committee which will receive the certificates of canvass and ensure its security until the proclamation of the duly elected president and vice president.

It will be the special committee which shall submit its report for final consideration by the joint session of the Senate and the lower house.

In the gathering at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Monsod revealed to the diplomats the measures being undertaken by the Comelec to insure a clean, honest and orderly elections.

Safeguards adopted by the poll body included the safe transfer of election returns from the provinces to Manila in time for the May 25 joint session of Congress.

The Comelec had approved the separate petitions of two foreign groups from Europe and Canada as observers.

Monsod expects the Senate canvass of the results of the election of the president and the vice president before June 12.

He was optimistic that even the Media-Citizens Quick Count (MCQC) would finish its unofficial counting of votes before the May 25 canvass by Congress.

"After seven days, MCQC would have counted 70% of the votes for its unofficial tally," Monsod said.

Faction Pledges No Interference

HK0805062492 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 6 May 92 p 6

[Text] National Democratic Front [NDF] leaders in Southern Mindanao yesterday dismissed Monday's national elections as a mere exercise "to transfer the reins of power from one elite group to another" but said it will not act to stop people from voting.

In a statement signed by Salvador Mendez, the NDF-Far South Region however warned candidates of revolutionary justice if they tried to "tamper with the masses" expression of free will by whatever means, be it by manipulation of returns, terrorism and the like."

The NDF unit issued the statement as the Commission on Elections and police and military authorities prepared to deal with possible outbreaks of violence in traditional election trouble spots in Mindanao, particularly the Lanao provinces and Maguindanao, where both private armies and guerrilla groups are known to operate.

Rival presidential candidates had in recent days intensified their campaigning in the vote rich region.

Mendez said the May 11 "U.S.-inspired" exercise would only "perpetuate the oppression and repression" of the people.

But he said that if the Filipino people "sees fit to participate by voting a candidate who approximates their aspirations at this juncture of our history of political struggle, then they are free to do so. The NDF-Far South Region fully respects such a move as an act of their free will."

Mindanao Candidates To Be Sequestered

HK0805065092 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 8 May 92 p 4

[By Alvin Tarroza]

[Text] Zamboanga City—Candidates in Mindanao have agreed to stay within the confines of military camps on election day, May 11, for their own security.

This was disclosed by Defense Secretary Renato De Villa, who arrived here yesterday morning for a command briefing on the overall security situation in the region. He also assured the voters here, particularly those in provinces under Commission on Elections (Comelec) control, of an orderly and successful election.

The defense chief said candidates in the province of Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi would be confined to the different military camps for the duration of the election in their respective provinces.

De Villa said the idea of "clustering" the candidates in military camps on election day was agreed upon by the candidates, for their own security.

"The military did not decide to confine them; this was the result of a dialog among the Comelec, military, the Philippine National Police and political leaders concerned and this is what they arrived at," De Villa said.

He said this would be a good measure against violent confrontation among armed groups.

De Villa added that clustering of candidates would also be observed in other provinces and the canvassing votes in all levels would be done in the military camp.

He said the military would take the lead role in overseeing the security and orderliness of the election as directed by the Comelec and the PNP would play a supporting role. As compared to the situation in the rest of the country, De Villa said the roles have been reversed in this area.

De Villa also discounted fears communist or even Muslim secessionist rebels would stage major activities. He, however, said in areas where rebels were said to have a large number of followers, the military expected that the rebels would continue to intimidate residents and political leaders.

Commission on Elections Declares 'Red Alert'

HK0805063092 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 8 May 92 p 12

[By Lynda T. Jumilla]

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] is on 'red alert' in the face of last minute problems in preparation and security as the May 11 synchronized elections draw near.

"We are practically on red alert now because problems keep pouring in," Commissioner Regalado Maambong said yesterday.

But he said despite minor hitches in the shipping of election forms to the provinces, everything was under control.

The Comelec also issued last-minute instructions for immediate enforcement by all Comelec deputies and special action teams among them:

—Confinement of the notorious CAFGUS (Citizens Armed Forces Geogrpahical Units) all over the country to their areas of operation and their exclusion from poll duty.

—Placing of all military troops and police forces under the commission's disposal for purposes of poll duty.

Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod, in a letter to the Partido ng Bayan, [Nation's Party, PnB] gave assurance that no CAFGU member would be deployed for poll duty.

The Comelec reached the decision after the PnB raised the human rights violation record and partisan character of the notorious paramilitary forces.

"CAFGUs are limited to their geographical areas of operation and to defense or counter-insurgency operations," Monsod said.

"CAFGU members not needed for counter-insurgency operations and those involved in partisan political activities shall be disarmed and grounded," he added.

By virtue of its integration into the military, the CAFGU had been deemed deputized by the Comelec for election duty.

But Monsod said CAFGUs will not be used for direct poll duty, such as manning checkpoints, escorting election paraphernalia, securing polling centers, and as tempers of special action teams.

Monsod, however, pointed out that CAFGUs may have to assume greater responsibility in maintaining peace and order in their areas since regular military and police units wil be busy will poll duties.

The Comelec, in a resolution, also directed the Armed Forces to place all AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and Philippine National Police [PNP] forces under the commission's disposal.

It ordered AFP Chief Gen. Lisandro Abadia to recommend the number of military personnel and equipment needed to support Comelec special action teams, and to relieve AFP-PNP officers and men found by Comelec teams to be unfit for election duty.

Lapu-Lapu City Placed Under Control

HK0805070092 Quezon City MALAYA in English 8 May 92 p 2

[By Carlito Pablo]

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] yesterday placed Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu province under its control following the discovery of at least 15,000 registrants in excess of its voting population of 77,397.

Commissioner Regalado Maambong said the poll body directed the PNP [Philippine National Police] to field 10 policemen in each of the city's 30 polling precincts on election day.

Lapu-Lapu City is the 15th area to be placed under Comelec control.

The Board of Election Inspectors was also ordered to allow PNP security forces within the 30-meter radius of each precinct. A member of the security force can witness the application of indelible ink on voters.

The Comelec also said no members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographic Units [CAFGU] will be deployed for duty on election day.

CAFGU units not needed in counter-insurgency operations will be disarmed, Elections [Chairman] Christian Monsod said in a letter to Loretta Ann Rosales, president of the Partido ng Bayan. [Party of the Nation; PnB].

PnB had earlier asked the Comelec to recall the deputation of CAFGU.

Multiple registrants totalling 465 were uncovered by the Liberal Party [LP] and the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Filipino Democrats; LDP] in 19 precinct [as published] in Barangay San Roque and the reclamation area in Pasay City.

Mayoralty bets Rolaw Briones of the LP and Edan do Calixto of the LDP, in separate petitions, asked the Comelec to place the city under its control.

Briones said his parts was at a loss on what legal action to take since the period for excluding questionable voters has lapsed.

Cavite Governor Juanito Remulla yesterday asked the Commission on Elections to order the pullout of PNP "Task Force Calabarzon" in his province, saying it is being used by Local Government Secretary Cesar Sarno to "terrorize" the people.

Remulla told Elections Chairman Christian Monsod in a letter that certain PNP officers and men were being used by Sarino "for certain activities without any legal directive from the Comelec."

Remulla complained that Task Force Calabarzon was terrorizing the population, particularly the towns of General Aguinaldo and Magallanes.

Sarino, who is from Cavite, had earlier been ordered by the Comelec not to interfere in the reshuffling of PNP commanders as part of a measure to ensure an orderly and peaceful election.

Gen. Lisandro Abdia, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, predicted that Monday's election will be "fairly good."

He told a press conference in Daraga, Albay that Monday's elections would be better than those in 1986 and 1988 because only 30 election-related violent incidents have been reported.

He said election violence has been minimized with the Comelec-initiated peace pacts among warring political factions, particularly in Masbate and Nueva Ecija.

Director General Cesar Nazareno, PNP chief, also flew to the South to meet with police officials in cities of Cebu, Tacloban, Davao, Cotabato and Dipolog.

Military To Counter 'No Election' Plot

HK0805064192 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 8 May 92 p 11

[By Ramoncito P. De La Cruz]

[Excerpt] The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) leadership is scheduled to launch this afternoon "Oplan [Operation Plan] Yes na Yes," a program aimed at neutralizing Oplans "NOEL" (No elections) and "No Proc" (No proclamation) allegedly to be initiated by the ultra-rightist elements.

This was disclosed yesterday by a senior military official who refused to disclose the details of the operation plan "so as not to preempt the announcements to be made by AFP chief of staff Lisandro Abadia and Commission on Elections [COMELEC] chairman Christian Monsod" during the flag retreat in Camp Aguinaldo.

Oplans "NOEL" and "No Proc" are a series of terroristic activities designed to disrupt Monday's polls and the June 30 proclamation proceedings, respectively.

In an earlier interview, Gen. Abadia disclosed that the military, police and Comelec authorities had already "strategized" their respective plans, especially for the duration of the voting and canvassing procedures.

So far, what Gen. Abadia has said about the plan is that "all available military assets—ships, aircraft, communication facilities and personnel—will be at the disposal of Comelec come election day."

In a related development, the Philippine National Police (PNP) expressed optimism the coming elections will be relatively peaceful.

In an interview before his departure for his three-day trip to Mindanao and Visayas, PNP director general Cesar Nazareno said that except for minor harassment charges during out-of-town political rallies and the attempted ambush on former Batangas Governor Antomo Leviste yesterday morning, "there has not yet been any big violence in the last 48 hours."

During his provincial visits, the police chief will meet with local police directors and local representatives from the Media-Citizens' Quick Count and Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting "for final coordination."

He is expected to visit Cebu, Jolo, Dipolog, Cotabato, Davao, Tacloban and Legaspi City.

Gen. Abadia, for his part, is also conducting his own series of dialogues with army troopers based in the different parts of the country to give "final guidance" to them.

He visited the headquarters of the Southern Command in Zamboanga City last Saturday, 8th and 3rd Infantry Divisions in Samar and Panay, the 2nd Air Division in Mactan and Visayas Command in Cebu last Tuesday, and Bicol-based commands yesterday. He is scheduled to fly to Northern Luzon Command and 7th Infantry Division tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Last Minute Election Problems, Violence Reported

Investigation Into Deaths Begins

HK0805104192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 8 May 92

[By Francis Calado]

[Text] The Philippine National Police [PNP] is now investigating the murder of three political candidates in different provinces.

Angel Bautista, Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats [Lakas-NUCD] mayoralty re-election candidate for Badoc, Ilocos Norte, was killed yesterday while in a motorcade on a provincial road in Barangay Pasanajan Sur, Ilocos Sur. According to the reports received by Camp Crame, an unidentified group of armed men blocked and fired on Bautista's six-car motorcade. Bautista was hit in the arm, his aide in the foot, and a supporter in the stomach.

Prior to this, Lakas-NUCD Cebu congressional candidate Roberto Ibanez was also shot at yesterday; but his bullet proof vest saved him from the attack.

Meanwhile, the Lakas-NUCD has also reported the death of Alfredo Magula, one of their candidates in Tabas, Surigao Norte. Magula was shot by several armed men after his rally yesterday.

In Camp Crame records, there are already 38 reported politically related incidents, with the Lakas-NUCD having most of the casualties.

Senatorial Candidate Escapes Ambush

HK0805054992 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 8 May 92 pp 1, 26

[Text] Former Batangas Governor J. Antonio Leviste, secretary-general and senatorial candidate of the People's Reform Party (PRP) led by Miriam Defensor Santiago, cheated death at dawn yesterday when he and his driver were ambushed by armed men in Kilometer 80, barangay Mahabang Parang, Batangas City.

Leviste said he and his driver, Rodolfo Adia, were not hurt but they were shaken by the impact of their car's fall on its side after two bursts of gunfire from a nine-millimeter firearm, presumably a machine pistol.

In a press conference at the Manila Yacht Club on Roxas Blvd. Manila, originally to launch the National Union of Enfranchised Voters' Organizations (NUEVO), Leviste said police found six empty shells at the ambush site.

The socio-civic and business leader said the ambush occurred at 2 a.m. yesterday when he and Adia were on their way from Lipa City to Lemery for a meeting with former Batangas City Mayor Conrado Berberabe. He added that he and Santiago were campaigning in Lipa City on their way to Lemery when Santiago received a tip, warning her against going to Lemery.

Leviste said Santiago sent him instead to Lemery to explain her absence to the people.

"On the way to Lemery along Kilometer 80, barangay Mahabang Parang, Batangas City, my driver said he saw a white box-type Lancer that drove alongside our gray Nissan Sentra with license plate number PPB 220. The gunmen fired two salvos in the back seat. But I was not there. I was beside the driver," Leviste said.

"The car suffered six bullet holes in the back seat and turned on its side. My driver and I were shaken for a long time. It took me some time to get out of the car. Later, some people helped us and pushed the car upright," he said.

"Minutes later, policemen came from a nearby station and launched a dragnet for the gunmen in the whole province. The Batangas City police are still looking into the ambush," Leviste said.

During the conference, he said Santiago had not yet learned about the ambush since she was campaigning in Dipolog City and was scheduled to arrive in Manila last night for a rally in Mandaluyong.

He said he had earlier received phone calls from some people who told him to stop helping Santiago in her presidential campaign.

Leviste said that in his many years as a politician, he never had security men. "Death comes when it comes," he said.

He said an interesting twist in the ambush is the fact that Santiago, who was seriously hurt in a car collision in Moncada, Tarlac, on April 28 last year, and I have the same plate numbers "220" although the letters are different. "Her backup car and mine also have the same plate number—901," he added.

Leviste said he called the press conference to launch NUEVO '92 to rally all first-time voters or the youth.

"Under the program, all first-time voters will be asked to stand up and be counted. They will be made to realize that they constitute 17 percent of the 35-million registered voters or 4.1-million strong, and that if they consolidate, their forces will make up the swing vote to elect the new president. They belong to the group of voters who have not yet been tainted with the conduct of fraudulent election practices, as their elders in the past," he said.

Police Chief Orders Inquiry

HK0705104192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 May 92

[By Francis Calado]

[Text] Director General Cezar Nazareno, Philippine National Police [PNP] chief, has ordered Senior Superintendent Florencio Fianza, Batangas PNP Command director, to immediately investigate the ambush of Peoples' Reform Party [PRP] senatorial candidate Antonio Leviste, former Batangas governor, early this morning. It will be recalled that Leviste and his driver were ambushed by unidentified armed men while on the way to a rally in the province.

According to Senior Superintendent Reynaldo Wycoco, PNP spokesman, there is no clear suspect at present.

[Begin Wycoco recording in English; in progress] ...no suspects yet. They have not made any arrests but we will treat this as another crime. We will investigate it. We will look at the motives, and see who possibly did it, and whatever results arise from the investigation, we will inform the authorities immediately. [end recording]

According to Wycoco, the PNP is currently conducting pursuit operations in and around the province.

Candidate Survives Ambush

HK0805062392 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] A congressional candidate from Cebu escaped death after he was ambushed. A Camp Crame report said Roberto Ibanez of the Nation's Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats party was ambushed last night at 2100 [1300 GMT]. He survived because he was wearing a bulletproof vest. Two suspects were detained in Cebu police station after they were caught. The ambush took place in front of the Cafe Adriatico in Cebu city.

Laurel Headquarters Fire Viewed

HK0705120692 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 7 May 92

[Interview with Colonel Neri Andolong, official spokesman of the Nacionalista Party, by news reporter Rolly Gonzalo at Radio Mindanao Network studios, Manila—live; italicized passages in English]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Gonzalo] What is the latest word on the fire that gutted your party headquarters yesterday? [Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog at 1100 GMT on 6 May reports: "The general headquarters of Vice President Salvador Laurel's Nacionalista Party and his law office on the eighth floor of the Philippine Banking Corporation, located at Ayala Avenue, corner of Herrera Street, Makati, Metro Manila, was razed in a fire which started at 1045 and was put out at 1355. The fire, which allegedly started in room 707, the bank's computer room, destroyed 12 other establishments on the seventh floor and nine more on the eighth floor."]

[Andolong] Well, it is still under investigation by the Makati Police Arson Division. We have still not received any word. However, based on the assessment by Mayor Binay, it looks as if something myterious happened. The fire could not have been caused by faulty electrical wiring since there was no electricity at the time of the explosion.

[Gonzales] Colonel Andolong, Vice President Laurel's statement seems to indicate that the incident yesterday was a direct attempt on his life, especially since he had just finished an earlier meeting at that office.

[Andolong] That is true. He had a meeting with his advisers and his legal staff because there were some documents which they needed to study. Fortunately, he left early.

But the day before, Tuesday, he was warned by Cardinal Sin that his life was in danger. He was instructed to add more men to his personal security group.

I'm not sure if was part of the plan [as heard]; *however, we are not taking chances.*

Bomb Rocks Quezon City Office

HK0805063492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] A strong blast rocked the headquarters of mayoralty candidate Andres Genito in Quezon City this morning. Here are the details:

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] Philippine Broadcasting Service [PBS] learned that no one was injured during the explosion. The bomb is suspected to have been a homemade Molotov bomb which was thrown near the headquarter's high walls. The blast shook the Genito headquarter's caretaker and several neighbors.

In an interview, Genito called on his political rivals to avoid resorting to violence during this time. He has also asked for an investigation into the blast.

Meanwhile, Genito's caretaker, Francisco Adrealde, said he saw several men on board a passenger jeepney and two Oner [jeep type] jeeps who were peeping through the headquarter's windows after the blast. [end recording]

Taiwan Gives 20,000 Illegal Filipinos Ultimatum

HK0805055292 Quezon City MALAYA in English 8 May 92 p 2

[By Butch Franco]

[Text] The Taiwanese government has given illegal foreign workers, including about 20,000 Filipinos, until July 15 to leave.

In a related development, the Philippine and Taiwanese governments are set to sign a labor agreement next month which will, among others, cover the deportation of Filipino workers and their hiring later on.

Labor Secretary Ma. Nieves Confessor, who met with Taiwanese officials when she visited Taipei last week, said the agreement will also provide for the setting up of the Philippine Labor Center in Taipei and the creation of joint committees to implement training programs for contract workers.

Confesor said Taiwan will accept foreign contract workers but only after all illegal workers have been deported.

"The good thing here is that the Taiwanese government has assured us (it will) give priority to Filipino workers," she said.

Confesor said many Filipino workers who entered Taiwan illegally are likely to be rehired since they have been trained and are liked by their employers.

She also said Filipino workers have an edge over other foreigners after Taiwan suspended recruitment of Thai nationals to prevent the spread of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

Thailand is known for its high number of AIDS cases.

Confesor said FIlipino workers in Taiwan are mostly employed in the garments and textile industries, electronics and food processing.

Confesor said the deportation of illegal workers is voluntary and that workers would shoulder the expenses.

Confesor said 2,300 job orders for Filipino workers have been placed by Taiwan employers, mostly engineering and construction companies.

A group of workers are leaving in June for Taiwan, Confesor said.

Taiwan has given illegal workers until May 10 to register with the police and until July 15 to leave or face arrest and be banned from entering Taiwan.

Taiwan plans to hire 300,000 foreigners in the next five years.

Thailand

PM's Office Statement on Current Situation

BK0705165992 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1320 GMT 7 May 92

[Statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office]

[Text] Considering that some groups of people and some political parties have periodically or continuously urged the masses to oppose the assumption of the premiership by General Suchinda Khraprayun since the royal command appointing the prime minister was issued on 7 April; that these groups of people and political parties heatedly incited the masses through various measures when General Suchinda Khraprayun led the cabinet for a swearing-in ceremony and delivered the government's policy statement on 6 and 7 May; and that, as earlier reported, some politicians and parties have exerted pressure on the government and instigated the people to join rallies as much as possible; the Prime Minister's Office would like to explain the reasons for the need to resolve the problem and measures to deal with the escalating situation as follows.

Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun was entrusted by five political parties, which command a majority in the House of Representatives with 195 votes, to assume the premiership in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, and a royal command was issued appointing him to the post. Later on, he appointed a group of persons to assume posts in the cabinet in charge of national administration affairs with the trust of 195 MP's. After the appointment of the prime minister and the formation of the government, four political parties which command fewer votes—the New Aspiration Party, the Democrat Party, the Phalang Tham Party, and the Solidarity Party—have opposed the assumption of the premiership of General Suchinda Khraprayun. The government has listened to the views of these political parties with full respect for their rights and views. The government has realized that the views of these political parties are sincere and aimed at solving national problems within the democratic system, under which the government and the opposition can perform their duties legally and peacefully without resorting to violence, causing unrest in the country.

Under the international democratic system, any struggle and opposition by the members of the parliament can be carried out in parliament. On the contrary, some politicians have not carried out their opposition activities in parliament, claiming that they have fewer votes and cannot defeat the government side. They have turned to cooperating with some groups of persons to oppose the assumption of the premiership by General Suchinda Khraprayun through various means. At the same time, they have set up conditions and exerted pressure on General Suchinda Khraprapun to resign from the post. They reasoned that they would protest until death if he does not resign from the post. These methods have been carried on step by step, systematically, have been preplanned, and much money has been spent toward these ends. They have set up a condition for General Suchinda Khraprayun to resign from the post of prime minister within seven days. They will continue to protest until they die if General Suchinda Khraprayun does not resign.

These conditions have created a stalemate in the the efforts to resolve our problems, which had been progressing well until now. Several politicians have used rude words to incite the people to riot in a manner similar to what happened recently in the United States.

Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun has explained to the joint session of the National Assembly four reasons for him to accept the premiership. These are: first, to prevent some politicians who have confused ideologies or political ideas and had been behind a group of persons who have the same ideologies and had created unrest before and publicized the idea of a Presidium Council; second, he has been asked by a large number of Buddhist followers to assume the premiership in order to protect Buddhism; third, to prevent some politicians and some groups of persons who had spent much money in getting elected as members of parliament from rising to power in the state; fourth, he decided to assume the post after considering the above reasons and that the assumption of the premiership is not against the constitution and other laws of the country, which are the rules for national administration at present.

The Prime Minister's Office would like to explain the situation, the reasons, and the facts to the Thai people, and would like to inform them that the government will try to overcome the opposition and instigations smoothly by adhering to the principle that we are all Thai people with common blood in dealing with the situation. Therefore, it would like the people to consider the above reasons and take national peace and stability into account. However, if this group of people does not stop inciting the masses and creating unrest, the government will have to use decisive legal measures. Please inform your relatives and friends not to become a tool in creating unrest by those who have exhibited untrustworthy behavior toward the stability of the monarchy and the Buddhist institutes.

'Senior Military Leaders' Huddle With Suchinda

BK0705174892 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1725 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Regarding the atmosphere in front of the residence of Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun, some senior military leaders called on the prime minister from 2030 to about 2200. Correspondents and cameramen who were waiting to cover latest developments in front of the residence were not allowed to report the meetings. Senior military officers who called on the prime minister include Army Commander General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, Deputy Army Commander General Wirot Saengsanit, Deputy Interior Minister Police

Lieutenant General Wirot Pao-in, and Deputy Army Chief of Staff General Yutthana Khamdi.

Bangkok Braces for More Big Demonstrations

BK0805054492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0535 GMT 8 May 92

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Excerpt] Bangkok, May 8 (AFP)—An uneasy calm returned to the Thai capital Friday after one of the country's biggest anti-government demonstrations in nearly 20 years broke up peacefully in the early morning.

By mid-day only an estimated 1,000 protesters out of the original 100,000 plus remained around hunger striker Chamlong Simuang who has vowed to fast to the death unless Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun resigns.

But the city was bracing itself for even bigger demonstrations over the weekend and reliable sources report that provincial troops have been moved into holding areas on the fringe of the capital.

"The situation is still very tense. There are still real fears of violence," said one analyst.

However for the present security forces continued to keep a low profile at the fast site at Sanam Luang, Bangkok's traditional rallying spot for demonstrations, and made no attempt to remove Chamlong, a key opposition leader.

An army spotter plane made several passes early Friday over the rally site to repeat orders by the military to crowds to disperse.

Contradictory rumours about the future of Suchinda and his five-party pro-military coalition government continued to circulate.

Some stories had the former Supreme Commander ready to give in to protesters and dissolve parliament, others saying he was determined to fight on.

"No one really knows what is going on at the moment but something is going to give soon. Traditionally, crisis in Thailand do not run on too long," said one western diplomat. [passage omitted]

Coalition Parties Agree To Amend Constitution

BK0805092292 Bangkok Army Television Channel 7 in Thai 0855 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Five political parties in the coalition government at a meeting at Government House have decided to make five amendments to the present Constitution, which are partly the cause of the current political tension in the country.

Following the meeting, Montri Phongphanit, leader of the Social Action Party announced that they have decided to make five amendments to the Constitution. The changes that will be included are that the prime minister must be an elected Member of Parliament and that the National Assembly president must be the president of the House of Representatives.

Montri said it is impossible for the prime minister to step down at present. He hoped the decision to amend the Constitution would help improve the present situation.

Suchinda Agrees To Amendment

BK0805100992 Bangkok Army Television Channel 7 in Thai 0949 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun today spoke to newsmen for the first time on the current political tension. Speaking to newsmen at Government House, Gen. Suchinda said he disagreed with the idea of dissolving Parliament, but agreed with the idea of amending the Constitution. He promised to act in accordance with the Constitution.

Earlier on the same day, the five political parties in the coalition Government reached a decision to amend the Constitution, including an amendment specifying that the prime minister must be an elected member of Parliament. The prime minister is scheduled to deliver a speech on television tonight.

Parliament Dissolution Urged

BK0805013392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 May 92 p 21

[Excerpts] Businessmen have called for Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun to dissolve Parliament as the best political compromise to protect the country's economy from crashing.

Many businessmen, both foreign and Thai, have voiced concern that if Gen Suchinda refuses to compromise with his opponents there will be chaos.

"Moreover, if Gen Suchinda can manage to survive the crisis, his Government's stability is still in doubt," said one businessman, who asked not to be named.

He said Thai business is almost standing still. [passage omitted]

A banker, who also asked not to be named, said he is extremely worried by yesterday's events. He said the Government would be wiser to dissolve Parliament, but he fears the military does not realise the real public mood.

He said he was depressed by political developments even before the election because he could not see how a system dominated by the military and "political bandits" could lead to sound economic management. [passage omitted]

Another senior businessman said the unrest has already affected the economy in all fields.

"Foreign investors, in particular, have lost their confidence in Thailand." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, many stock investors have called for the Stock Exchange of Thailand to act to prevent the stock market from crashing. [passage omitted]

Many expressed their anxiety and showed their temper.

"The statement insulting the two party leaders in Parliament today (yesterday) is adversely affecting the market," one investor said, referring to Gen Suchinda's closing statement which accused two leading politicians of planning to destroy democracy and Buddhism.

Military Supreme Commander on Protests, Unrest

BK0705110892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1045 GMT 7 May 92

[Interview with Kaset Rotchaninin, military supreme commander and director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, by unidentified reporter at the Military Supreme Command in Bangkok—recorded; first paragraph is announcer's introduction]

[Text] In connection with the announcement [of the Internal Peacekeeping Command] aimed at resolving the various prevailing problems, Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Kaset Rotchananin, military supreme commander, acting in his capacity as director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, gave an interview on the issuance of the said announcement at the Military Supreme Command at Sanam Suapa this evening.

[Kaset] They can talk with the National Assembly in a peaceful manner on issues of national administration. The opposition should do its duty as best as it can in accordance with the democratic system. The government has the duty to administer the country so as to bring prosperity, happiness, and well-being to the people with a sound economy. We can help one another carry out work under the democratic parliamentary system. There should be no problem in this.

But some people are now playing the game outside parliament. This is my responsibility—the activities outside parliament—because I am the director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command. In solving this problem, soldiers use only their bare hands. That is, we only talk with them. We do not use force. We are employing gentle measures. If we can understand each other, everything will come to an end.

[Reporter] Marshal, will the petition to His Majesty the King have any effect on the government?

[Kaset] I do not know about that. I do not know who has submitted the petition to His Majesty the King.

[Reporter] Do you think the announcement of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command will incite participants at the rallies to resort to violence.

[Kaset] Do not use the word "inciting." We are only doing this to maintain peace in Bangkok. Do not use the word "inciting." We will maintain restraint and do everything to maintain peace and order in Bangkok.

Briefs on Steps To End Rallies

BK0705145892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 7 May 92

[Report on news briefing held by Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, military supreme commander, in his capacity as director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, at Building 604 of the Military Supreme Command in Bangkok on 7 May—recorded]

[Text] Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Kaset Rotchananin, military supreme commander, in his capacity as director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, gave a news briefing on the reasons for the issuance of the first announcement by the Internal Peacekeeping Command to end the rallies so as to prevent damage to the country.

[Begin Kaset recording] With regard to the situation in our country, especially in Bangkok, I think the demonstrators are being used as tools by those elements having ill intentions toward the government. That is why it was necessary for me to issue the first announcement of the Internal Peacekeeping Command. But I would like to emphasize here that the issuance of this announcement is aimed at convincing those people who also have responsibility toward the country to understand the situation so they can cease the rallies. This will be fruitful for our country. [end recording]

[Announcer] At the press briefing at Building 604 of the Military Supreme Command, which was attended by many high-ranking military officers from the three armed services, ACM Kaset Rotchananin gave further explanations regarding his power to issue the announcement by saying he has the authority to do so under the law, with the approval of the prime minister. ACM Kaset also gave the reassurance that the Internal Peacekeeping Command will try to employ gentle measures in dispersing the rallies.

[Begin recording] [Kaset] There are steps we will take to maintain internal peace and order. First, gentle measures will be employed. If things do not work out, somewhat harsher measures may be applied. If nothing can be accomplished through this, further steps will be taken. But I don't know at what level they will be.

[Unidentified reporter] Marshal, will there be (?more announcements), sir?

[Kaset] I think one is enough for it carries adequate authority to maintain peace in the country.

[Unidentified reporter] If they don't obey today, will a curfew be imposed?

[Kaset] No, probably not. However, with regard to the announcement I have just made here in Bangkok as director of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command, the Army commander in chief must take the steps in accordance with the policy I just told you—beginning from being gentle to the point where [the rallies] can be ended. [end recording]

Deputy Premier on 'Ways' To Resolve Problems

BK0805062392 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0500 GMT 8 May 92

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan by unidentified reporters on current crisis—recorded]

[Text] [TV announcer] Speaking to reporters before calling on Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun together with Mr. Witsanu Khrua-ngam, spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office, at the Thai Khufa Building of the Government House this morning, Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan discussed ways to resolve the current problems, saying that house dissolution is one of the ways which may be considered by the government. However, he is of the view that cooperation from all sides is the best way to resolve these problems.

[Michai] That is right. I think that we must cooperate with one another to resolve the problems. Everyone cannot....

[Unidentified reporter] We must cooperate....

[Michai] Democracy means compromising. No one can gain full concessions. If the majority wants something this way, must we do it this way? We must take into consideration the demands of the minority as well. We cannot do anything one-sided.

[Unidentified reporter] The opposition and Major General Chamlong gave the ultimatum that Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun must resign. This is the only way.

[Michai] If that is so, it is very difficult. Problems have arisen leading to unrest. To settle these problems, we must cooperate with one another.

[Unidentified reporter] Will it take the government long to resolve these problems?

[Michai] I don't know how long it will take.

[Unidentified reporter] Quickly?

[Michai] As quickly as possible. The faster, the better.

[Announcer] In addition, Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan also said that the rally at Sanam Luang at the moment has been conducted by the people in accordance with their fundamental rights in conducting peaceful demonstrations. The government only has the duty to maintain peace and order to prevent any untoward incidents from happening.

Air Force Deputy Chief Discusses Current Crisis

BK0805062692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0500 GMT 8 May 92

[Interview with Air Chief Marshal Suthep Theppharak, Air Force deputy commander in chief, by unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [TV announcer] Air Chief Marshal Suthep Theppharak, Air Force deputy commander in chief, said that the rally in front of the National Assembly should not have an adverse effect on the government to the point that House dissolution has to be carried out. Judging from the current situation, things should not become more tense. He said that demonstrators should disperse and fight through parliamentary means in accordance with the democratic system.

[Unidentified reporter] If the rally continues unabated, will there be (?any time limit) when (?it will end)?

[Suthep] If there are not many demonstrators, there should be no problem.

[Unidentified reporter] It has been reported that another rally will be held this evening. Will the security side adopt and announce any special measures to deal with this development?

[Suthep] There should not be anything. Nothing has been prepared.

[Unidentified reporter] Will there be more announcements?

[Suthep] There will not be any more announcements.

[Unidentified reporter] Many sides have strong words [words indistinct], including proposals to dissolve the House and for the prime minister to resign...

[Suthep] Dissolve the House? Why? There should not be a House dissolution.

[Unidentified reporter] If the crisis (?comes to a dead end), what will be a new way to choose?

[Suthep] I don't know. You have to ask the prime minister about this.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think the prime minister will resign?

[Suthep] Well, I don't know whether he...

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think the crisis now comes to a dead end?

[Suthep] I don't think it does.

Spokesman Interviewed on Peacekeeping Announcement

BK0705121592 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0910 GMT 7 May 92

[Interview with Government Spokesman Dr. Witsanu Khrua-ngam by television announcer Chakkraphan

Yomchinda on the issuance of Announcement No. 1 by the Internal Peacekeeping Command in the studio; place not given—live]

[Text] [Chakkraphan] If our viewers judge from the announcement [issued by the Internal Peacekeeping Command] requesting the people to end the rallies at the National Assembly, you may think that the situation is not very normal. Today, I have a person here to talk with me—Dr. Witsanu Khrua-ngam, deputy secretary general of the Cabinet in the capacity of government spokesman—to explain the meaning of the said announcement. Professor, what do you have to say about this?

[Witsanu] Chakkraphan, I am here as deputy secretary general of the cabinet and acting spokesman of the government. I have been instructed to explain this incident to the public. About half an hour ago, the government was informed that the Internal Peacekeeping Command had issued an announcement. The name of this agency is quite long, is it not? It is not the Internal Security Command as you said. The public is rather confused with these names. Many people may be surprised and ask why this announcement has been made and on the basis of what law it has been issued. It has even been rumored that it is an announcement to seize state power as the National Peace-Keeping Council did on 23 April [date as heard; Thai coup occurred on 23 February 1991] last year.

I would like to explain to the public that this announcement, which has been signed by Military Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Kaset Rotchananin, has been issued in the name of the National Peacekeeping Command on the basis of a law decreed more than 10 years ago. That law is the 1976 Act of the Director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, which was enacted as a state apparatus for use during an emergency or a crisis in which unrest or chaos is imminent in the country, chaos of any nature. In some cases, the power vested in some laws has to be utilized to halt or to reduce tension which may occur at that time. The National Assembly enacted this law in 1976.

The Act on the Director of the National Peacekeeping Command stipulates that the prime minister has the power to appoint or assign the military supreme commander—only the military supreme commander and no one else—to assume the directorship of the Internal Peacekeeping Command. After assuming the directorship of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, he has the authority to issue orders to deploy police, military, and civilian forces to halt or to take measures to restore internal peace and order as soon as possible. In the past 10 years, this power has been excercized intermittently. Each time it has been enforced, peace and order has been restored in the country. It is the same thing this time.

Half an hour ago, you kindly read the first announcement of the Internal Peacekeeping Command to the public. The substance of the announcement has already been read by you. However, I would like to add a little bit more here. The first announcement of the National Peacekeeping Command said that a large number of people are currently holding rallies in front of the National Assembly and at the Royal Plaza. A number of people are sincerely attending the rallies with peaceful intentions, for they want to follow the political situation in the country.

However, there is another group of persons attending the rallies with ulterior motives. Of course, tens of thousands of people attending the rallies cannot have the same incentives. They must have different motives. This is only normal. These people have attended the rallies with different intentions—such as to simply listen to speeches, to express their views, or to stage protests. Of course, they can do that in accordance with their constitutional rights. They can do so as long as they conduct meetings in an orderly and peaceful manner without weapons. The situation in general is like this and remains satisfactory. The state has not used any force to suppress them because they attend rallies in accordance with their constitutional rights. The rallies have political objectives. We can simply say that they are political movements conducted with freedom [under the Constitution].

However, the rallies have not seemed to come to an end, even after the National Assembly session for debating the government's policy statement concluded at noon today. On the contrary, it appears that the rallies will escalate to the point that they will not end soon. The first problem the rallies have created is that they have obstructed traffic. This is what I have learned from a report we have received. I have just recited the first announcement of the National Peacekeeping Command. The command has asked and appealed to the people attending the rallies to kindly abandon the rally sites or to do anything necessary to prevent the situation from getting out of control such that clashes, chaos, or revolts occur. I think this is the only objective of the announcement. There is no curfew. No power has been used, no intervention has occurred, and no military or police forces have been deployed to do anything. It is only a warning—an appeal—made on the basis of an ordinary law.

Therefore, I can tell you the following. First, it is only an enforcement of an ordinary law which has existed for a long time. Second, it is not a seizure of power or an act to take abrupt control of the situation to do away with state power as misunderstood by some people. Third, the government has learned that a moment ago the prime minister has instructed that even though the use of this power is possible under the existing law, he asked that the police, military, and civilian authorities employ polite measures in talking to the people, asking them and appealing to them to abandon rallies which may lead to unrest or may cause danger to their lives and property. The prime minister has asked everyone to carry out this duty in a gentle manner.

Police and military authorities must exercise the utmost restraint, especially in the face of any acts of harassment. The prime minister also asked the authorities to keep in mind that their mission is to keep peace and order. Once peace and order has been restored, everything must return to normal as soon as possible. That means that the first announcement of the Internal Peacekeeping Command will be lifted. I think that the military supreme commander, who has signed this announcement and has full authority prescribed by this law in the capacity of director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, must review the situation from time to time to see whether the situation has become tense or has eased.

[Chakkraphan] This means that after the situation returns to normal, the people go home, and no more rallies are held, everything will come to an end?

[Witsanu] Yes, this is the objective. The prime minister has repeatedly said that if the situation returns to normal, the announcement must be abrogated as soon as possible.

[Chakkraphan] Thank you very much, Dr. Witsanu.

Daily Examines Options Open to Suchinda

BK0805004992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 May 92 p 1

["Page One Comment"]

[Text] Since the day he became prime minister, Gen Suchinda Khraprayun has been confronted with a relentless barrage of criticism. This is not surprising given the expectations for a national democratic progress in the form of an elected prime minister, as manifested by members of the politically-sophisticated electorate in Bangkok and the southern provinces in the recent general election.

Gen Suchinda's claim that he had to swallow his pride—by going back on his previous pledges that he would not take the top political post—in the national interest did nothing to improve his credibility. The general's often repeated argument that his rise to political power was constitutionally legitimate is hardly convincing as the Constitution was written at the behest of the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] and his ascension to the premiership was thus seen as a perpetuation of the NPKC's power.

Opposition to Gen Suchinda's premiership now appears to have widened following his harsh and provocative remarks at the end of the parliamentary debate on the Government's policy statement yesterday. The prime minister in effect added insult to injury by accusing the protesters outside Parliament of being agitators who wanted to topple the Government in favour of a (communist-style) presidium system.

There wre probably some supporters of New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut among the tens of thousands of protesters; likewise there were also many supportes of Phalang Tham Party leader Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang. What is significant is that it requires strong political conviction for a protest rally this size to gather.

A solution is clearly needed to break the current political impasse and there are few options left in this dangerously volatile situation. We are hopeful that ongoing efforts by the five coalition parties and their Opposition counterparts to strike a compromise by means of a constitutional amendment do succeed.

Peaceful negotiations on the basis of mature reasoning—as opposed to the use of force—are an absolute must. The two chief protagonists in the looming showdown—Gen Suchinda and Maj-Gen Chamlong—will have to be prepared to give some reasonable ground to make a solution possible.

Failing that, there appears to be only two other options. To avert a damaging showdown which is looming in the face of snowballing dissent against his premiershiip, Gen Suchinda should resign. He can gain legitimacy by running in a by-election and, as leading social critics like Dr Prawet Wasi have suggested, also do the country a service by simultaneously spearheading a constitutional amendment to do away with the various undemocratic clauses. Otherwise, he should order the dissolution of Parliament and call for a new general election.

Ability To Restore Confidence Questioned

BK0705002892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 May 92 pp 21, 32

["BUSINESS POST Comment:" "Suchinda's Near Impossible Task of Reviving Confidence"]

[Text] Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun remains adamant that he will stay in office despite the calls for his resignation from demonstrators outside Parliament.

But even assuming his position is secure, he, his Cabinet and his advisers face a daunting task if they are to revive business confidence and keep the economy on the rails. Yesterday's policy statement to Parliament was no help.

No scientific study has been conducted, of course, but it does appear that confidence is lower than for many years—perhaps since the bloody coup of October 6, 1976. The stock market has fallen steadily, and people are beginning to wonder whether the capital that is leaving the country is being driven only by exchange rates and interest rates.

The problem is not just Gen Suchinda as a person. Nor is it his legitimacy. Some people like him; some do not. Some people oppose the appointment of an unelected prime minister, whoever he is; some are willing to accept that a majority in the elected House of Representatives can legitimately pick an outsider to be their prime minister. The divergence of opinion is natural.

What is worrying the business community is the Government's clear lack of stability. Again, this is not simply because four opposition parties, human rights activists, academics, students and tens of thousands of members of the public are willing to gather repeatedly in protest. To be sure, the protests are an important factor, but even without them, few can see how the Government could possibly hold together.

The problem lies in the Government's own internal contradictions. The coup that Gen Suchinda and his colleagues led was ultimately a clampdown on elected politicians, and not only those accused of corruption.

Now he finds himself at the helm. He depends on those politicians for support; he is evidently unable to stop their squabbling over portfolios and their ill-considered utterrances on policy. Ministers appear to be in a hurry, but where are they going with such haste? One newspaper has replaced the derogatory nickname of the Chatchai Government—"buffet Cabinet"—with one that is even worse—"fast food Cabinet".

Gen Suchinda and his military backers try to justify his appointment as a necessary measure to curb the excesses of the politicians and to impose stability on the system, but they cannot escape accusations that the problems in the coalition were partly created by the National Peace-Keeping Council itself.

The coup against elected MPs and the likelihood that Gen Suchinda would emerge as the prime minister encouraged a number of politicians to gravitate towards what they considered would be the new power centre. The Air Force created Samakkhi Tham, hijacked Chat Thai's leadership and built up the coalition.

The argument that Gen Suchinda is now needed to rescue the situation therefore has a false ring to it since the situation that needs rescuing was created in large measure by Class 5.

Against that background, the Government's economic policy statement is bland beyond belief. The public have a right to ask to what use Gen Suchinda is going to put the likes of Wiraphong Ramangkun, Chaiyawat Wibunsawat, Thawatchai Yongkitikun, Narongchai Akkharaseni, Sathaphon Kawitanon and Surakiat Sathianthai, if all such illustrious advisers can come up with is the vague and platitudinous document that the prime minister read out to the entire country yesterday.

Perhaps it is a mistake to take a Thai government's policy statement seriously, but more and more people are refusing to accept that politics has to be a charade. Moreover, the Government itself emphasised the importance it attached to yesterday's debate. The standard response to any comment about the new Government has been: "Wait until the policy statement."

The statement does have some virtues. The emphasis on fiscal and monetary caution is laudatory. So is the commitment to clearer, more public, less arbitrary and time-limited decisions.

The former point is essential if economic stability is to be retained. Without stability, then growth, income redistribution or any other economic objective can at best only be short-lived. The latter point is a vital means of reducing corruption, although the policy statement does not spell this out.

But if anyone wants a proper indication of how the economy will be run over the coming months, they will find the statement uninformative.

Where will the priorities lie when the promises to support agricultural prices (paragraph 5.2.2), invest in infrastructure (6.12.1) relocate industry in rural areas (6.10.1) modernise and strengthen the Armed Forces (7.1), expand educational opportunities (9.1), train the labour force (9.3), support research and development (9.4) and all the other goodies in the statement, run up against the commitment to fiscal discipline (preamble to section 6)?

Will the promised enlargement of the common agricultural fund (5.2.4) be inside or outside the regular budget, and what will the implications be for said fiscal discipline?

The Government is committed, almost in one breath, to conserve watershed forests (4.3.1), encourage locals to replant and replenish forests (4.3.3), and support private sector tree plantations (4.3.4). But will this lead to a predominance of national reservation, community forests or private eucalyptus plantations? Or if it is a mixture of all of these, what criteria will be used for each type? The statement is typically unenlightening.

Much of the document consists of expressions of intent. Little is said about how the objectives will be achieved.

Could the statement have been written differently? Yes. For a start it could have given some assessment of the economic climate of the coming months because that sets the constraints on what the Government can do.

The statement could have set out the Government's priorities more clearly—if income distribution and rural development are the most important tasks after ensuring economic stability and good housekeeping, then the Government could have indicated where some sacrifices might have to be made.

It could have spelt out more clearly how sound economic management will be ensured and how corruption will be ensured and how corruption will be be able to rescue his credibility or revive business confidence. Appeals to ministers to behave morally are pointless.

Commitments are badly needed to ensure quota allocation measures, procedures for issuing licences and permits, and the selection of contractors and concessionaires is fair, open, objective and free from arbitrary and frequent changes.

Priority areas for a crackdown on corruption would include the Customs Department, and certain sections of the Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Transport and

Communications ministries. The ministries responsible should make clear they are aware that the business community and the public in general continually complain about these and other agencies.

The Government could also have stated clearly that important public sector appointments, including directorships of state enterprises, will be based on merit and not on the traditional practice of favouring serving or retired military and civilian officials. Top civilian and military officials should be required to avoid involvement in business. This would dispel accusations of nepotism and cronyism.

There is plenty more that the Government could have said, but space here is limited. The phrase "lame duck" has recently been translated into Thai and used in reference to the new Government. It is catching on. The policy statement gives no indication that the Government can walk tall.

Army Leaflets Urge Protesters To Return Home

BK0805042692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0315 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Radio Thailand correspondent Sirikun Chetsadabodi has reported from Sanam Luang that this morning an Army plane dropped leaflets urging people who were staging a rally at Sanam Luang to return home. Our correspondent reported:

[Begin recording] At Sanam Luang at about 0800 this morning an Army plane dropped leaflets for the people who were staging a rally in the area.

The leaflets carried the following message: Beloved Thai people, the government has already presented its policy statement; with concern for the people who have with difficulty joined the rally for some length of time, the supreme commander urges all of you to return to your homes. If you all are worried about the situation in the country, please let the government and members of the House of Representtives, who are your representatives, take responsibility to further correct the situation. Please do not be misled by the instigation of ill-wishers' which may lead to public disorder. [end recording]

Protestors Said Jamming Police Frequencies

BK0805010792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 May 92 p 2

["Protesters Jam Police Air Waves"—POST headline]

[Text] While pro-democracy protesters were locked in a confrontation with the military-backed Government of Prime Minister Suchinda, a battle of the air waves was waged yesterday between police radio operators and protesters who have walkie-talkies.

The protesters frequently interrupted the police radio frequencies with abuse against Gen Suchinda. At one point, a police radio operator who tried to defend the prime minister appeared to have lost his temper and blasted back.

Meanwhile, the Thammasat University faculty council decided last night to help the public by airing news about the protesters through its broadcasting station in the light of a news blackout from the state-controlled radio and television stations.

Foreign Media Briefed on News Presentation

BK0805090092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan granted an interview to newsmen at the Foreign Ministry shortly before noon today about the current situation in Thailand, to which the world is paying attention.

Pongphon said that he has created understandings with other countries by organizing a meeting with ambassadors of the various countries to Thailand. The envoys believe the Thai Government would be able to rectify the situation, because in the past, under the democratic system, Thailand had experienced many crises but was always able to find a way out.

The minister said the mass media also share a role in upholding the country's image through news presentation. Representatives of foreign media, which have broadcast pictures of various events in Thailand will be invited for a briefing because worldwide news presentation is important. If incorrect news is presented to the world, it will cause serious damage to Thailand, concluded the foreign minister.

Media Asked To Report Factually

BK0805110692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1000 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] At about 1330 today at the Interior Ministry, Interior Minister Air Chief Marshal Anan Kalintha held a meeting with representatives from 15 local newspapers. The minister asked them for their cooperation to present the news straightforwardly and to present news that would help reduce tension. Air Chief Marshal Anan said that if the current opposition to the government outside the parliament persists, it will have an adverse impact on the country. The news presented by newspapers can help reduce or increase tension and pressure. Therefore, he asked the newspapers to present news factually in the interest of the country. He said that the country still has a good image. We should not allow our country to be seen to have a regressive democratic system.

Air Chief Marshal Anan said that the current situation has not yet reached a critical point. So, the newspapers should present correct reports and not ask questions that would elicit responses that would affect the feeling of others. When the situation returns to normal, the government will try to carry out its duties according to the policy statement as soon as possible without worrying about resolving problems.

Regarding the request of newspapers' representatives asking the government to report the facts promptly during such a situation, the interior minister accepted it for consideration. In addition, the minister asked the newspapers to scrutinize opinion pieces before publicizing them.

Foreign TV Banned From Coverage

BK0805091792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST (Special Supplement) in English 8 May 92 p 7

[Text] Foreign television news organisations were barred from transmitting footage via satellite of last night's anti-government rally.

The London-based Visnews and Japanese TV Asahi were refused satellite transmission services by Channel 7, which normally provides the commercial service.

Suwat Phichaikun, who operates the satellite service for Channel 7, pleaded for understanding, saying that the station could not risk the consequences.

"It's the same with every channel. We have to remain neutral and not be manipulated," he said.

Channel 9, which has a cooperation agreement with Tokyo-based NHK, asked to censor their coverage of the protests.

Mangkon Bunchun, director of the country's sole commercial satellite centre in Si Racha, issued a letter yesterday saying that "the current situation may not be normal" and that each channel must exercise its good judgement in deciding if the footage is proper for overseas transmission.

The letter was circulated to all local television channels.

The Channel 7 officer said: "Who will bear the consequences on our behalf in case the footage we let out backfires? Please understand our position."

A spokesman for CNN in Atlanta told AP that its Bangkok correspondent informed them last night that the Thai government has stopped all satellite feeds from news organisations in the country.

CNN is continuing to cover events in Thailand through telephone reports, said Sven Harhoss.

Local television channels have given minimal coverage—if any at all—of the huge protest in Sanam Luang.

From the moment the demonstrations began, the channels have been strongly criticised for their distorted news presentation.

News teams from the various channels are beginning to feel the heat.

Fearing public repercussions, Channel 7 news teams covering the rally at Sanam Luang last night removed the Channel 7 stickers on their cars.

A Channel 3 news team said protesters came close to wrecking the team's car at Parliament yesterday.

Protesters were angry that the events which the channels covered were not being aired on television.

The news teams said they tried to explain to people that they had come because that was their job—they had no control over policy at their respective stations.

A car belonging to Channel 5, a station closely identified with the military, was vandalised in front of Parliament on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Thammasat University's radio station has abandoned plans to broadcast news about the protests because its frequency belongs to the Public Relations Department.

The university's faculty council had decided last night to air news of the pro-democracy rally despite the news blackout on state-controlled radios and television.

But a Thammasat radio official said this morning that the station will only air regular programmes because the station is for education only.

Asked if democracy is part of education for Political Science students, the official said it is not.

Paper Sees 'No Turning Back' in Struggle

BK0805002592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 May 92 p A10

[Editorial: "No Turning Back for Democracy"]

[Text] Sanity on the part of the powers-that-be is critically needed at this turning point in our nation's history. Only reason and a sense of fair play can save our country from chaos and, possibly, anarchy. Those currently in power must realize immediately that the massive rallies that have been held around the Parliament building over the past few days are a natural phenomenon in democratic society and a natural, rightful reaction on the part of an extremely dissatisfied people.

The rallies will remain peaceful as long as the people are not provoked. The opposition leaders dread violence and are doing all they can to prevent it. But provocations are already occurring in the form of obstructions, warnings and distorted messages.

The military leaders' warning yesterday against continuing the anti-Suchinda rallies was far from justified. Any physical move to disperse the protesters, who moved to Sanam Luang last night, would be an outright disaster, which could threaten to plunge Thailand into an even more tragic episode than could have been expected since the coup of Feb 23 last year. We appeal to all sides—especially; the military—to take no action that could provoke physical conflict.

The international community is watching Thailand closely to see if it can resolve this crisis peacefully. The responsibility rests squarely with the powers-that-be to show, they are truly mature enough to tolerate free expression of public opinion, freedom of the press and peaceful public gatherings—rights recognized by every civilized and free society.

These rights are also enshrined under the Constitution. They are a crucial part of the democratic policy which the government claimed to cherish in its policy statement made on Wednesday. Criticism is nothing unusual under a multi-party political system. But with the media increasingly muzzled, the opposition ignored and peaceful protesters threatened, these rights have come under a serious threat in Thailand today.

International opinion cannot be ignored or overlooked. The present government leaders are well aware of the disgrace the country suffered as a consequence of last year's coup, which dealt a body blow to democratic development in Thailand. The private sector also has just too much at stake to afford another change of governemnt by force. Another takeover now would mean renewed and increased international condemnation, a loss of investor confidence and a downturn in tourism as well as a unnecessary deterioration in the country's image. Thailand would be very hard put to persuade the rest of the world that it is ready to join the ranks of developed nations after two coups in a little over a year.

Thailand can ill afford to buck the international trend towards greater political liberty. It would mean economic and political isolation from a world that increasingly treasures democracy and is more and more willing to stand up against political thuggery.

But that sort of low-level dealing became more than apparent yesterday when Prime Minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun acused his primary political opponents, Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang, without naming names, of being a crypto-communist and an enemy of religion respectively. A wild witchhunt was obviously under way. And nobody was fooled.

There is nothing to justify such low blows. All accusations of a "third force" backing the present demonstrations, or of the demonstrators being "professional agitators", sounded hollow at best. Indeed, the demonstrators, whose number exceeded 100,000 last night, have been remarkably calm in the face of the provocations they have undergone.

There is another right traditionally held by the Thai people: to petition His Majesty the King in times of national crisis. The fact that some opponents of the government—notably two groups of more than 300 academics and well-known senior citizens—have decided to take this course only shows the determination to abide by nonviolence and good intentions of the opposition. In fact, asking His Majety for his assistance, particularly in saving the lives of Chamlong Simuang and Chalat Woratchat, who have been on hunger strike, at this difficult time in history may be the wisest move right now.

The future of Thailand's democracy is at stake. Any attempt to undermine the democratic process will only plunge back to the dark age—a dreadful scenario for every Thai citizen.

Chamlong Appoints Spokesman Following Impairment

BK0805090792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST (Special Supplement) in English 8 May 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Citing his fast deteriorating condition, Phalang Tham leader Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang this morning at Sanam Luang appointed Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong Sunsiri to issue statements on his behalf.

Maj-Gen Chamlong, who is leading the pro-democracy demonstrations and is in the fifth day of his hunger strike, addressed his request in a letter to all leaders of the Opposition.

"Throughout the past four days, I had to think, write and communicate while fasting. Given my condition now, it is rather difficult for me to go on communicating. Therefore I have appointed Sqn Ldr Prasong Sunsiri to speak on my behalf."

He asked Opposition leaders to bury whatever grudges they had against Sqn Ldr Prasong, former National Security Council chief.

Prior to this latest decision, Maj-Gen Chamlong issued his second "letter to the people" which he insisted that he would not change his mind.

He wrote that he would continue his hunger strike until the unelected Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun resigns or he dies.

The letter is being read out to the crowd every two hours.

His hunger strike was not intended to make political capital for his own party, he wrote. He asked members of the Opposition, including his own party, not to cite their affiliation when addressing the crowd. This would avoid accusations that the Opposition was advancing its own interests.

He wrote that he is strongly determined to fast. He intended from the start that if Gen Suchinda does not resign he would be willing to die. [passage omitted]

Moved From Parliament Grounds

BK0705143592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1422 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Bangkok, May 7 (AFP)—Supporters of hunger striker Chamlong Simuang, who has vowed to fast to the death unless Thai Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun resigns, moved him Thursday night from in front of the parliament building.

Chamlong, a former governor of Bangkok and a key figure in the opposition's struggle against the government, left the site of a mass anti-government demonstration in an ambulance, smiling as he went.

Police reported an "endless stream" of his supporters was following him in a convoy of cars.

The ambulance took Chamlong to an open space opposite Thammasat University, where staff and students have a long history of political activism.

An estimated 100,000 anti-government supporters have packed into the square in front of parliament to call for Suchinda's resignation despite demands earlier by the country's military head for the crowd to disperse.

Chamlong's supporters feared troops surrounding the area might move in and grab their leader.

Government and opposition leaders know that if Chamlong dies riots may well erupt in the capital. Sources say the military planned to removed him to a hospital to guarantee his health and try to calm the growing anti-government protests.

Fears that the troops may move in on Chamlong soon were heightened earlier Thursday when Suchinda in parliament accused the popular hunger striker of being a threat to Buddhism in Thailand. Several others who had joined Chamlong in his hunger strike were also taken to the site near the university.

March to Thammasat University

BK0705154492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 7 May 92

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Excerpt] Bangkok, May 7 (AFP)—An estimated 100,000 plus anti-government protesters demanding the resignation of Thai Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun defied the military and began marching across Bangkok late Thursday night.

The demonstrators, who had been gathering all day outside parliament, began to make their way towards Thammasat University after supporters of hunger striker and key opposition leader Chamlong Simaung moved him from his fast site opposite parliament to an open area opposite the university.

Traffic was brought to a standstill as the procession wound its way to the university, which was the rallying site in 1973 for what turned into violent anti-government riots that left more than 100 students dead.

Although opposition leaders urged the demonstrators to remain peaceful there were growing fears of bloodshed after Thailand's military chief demanded in the afternoon an end to the demonstration.

Troops and armoured personel carriers, originally stationed in a nearby military base waiting for orders, began to take up positions nearer the rally site after the warning from Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Hanoi Comments on Los Angeles Incident

BK0505183892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 4 May 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Five days ago, Los Angeles, the second biggest city in the United States was robbed by the black locals who protested against the erroneous decision taken by the Federal Court to acquit four white police officers who were guilty of beating up black motorist named Rodney King in March last year.

Foreign public hold that this is just the last drop to the full glass. The British paper THE INDEPENDENT said: The Los Angeles incident was the outcome of what the blacks have had to suffer for many years now with regard to violent racial discrimination. The French paper LE HUMANITE said last Saturday that this incident was triggered by the fact that more than 30 million poor people—including 10 million children—are not entitled to social insurance; more and more workers have been dismissed from work; the purchasing power is going down; and the recent drop in public spending.

Meanwhile, the public in Germany said: The Los Angeles rioting was actually the biggest trouble against racial discrimination over the past 25 years. This event, has countenanced to the illusion of a multirace United States.

Thousands Protest Killing of Worker in Berlin

BK0605185692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] In response to an appeal by the local administration and by the Overseas Vietnamese Nationals' Society in Berlin, together with the German people, thousands of Vietnamese and other foreign immigrants took to the streets in Berlin on 3 April to protest the killing of a fellow worker who, working under a labor cooperation contract, was unjustifiably stabbed to death by a German radical on 24 April.

Addressing the demonstrators, the chief of Berlin's (Mazane) District strongly condemned this criminal act and called on the German people to unite with the Vietnamese and other foreign immigrants now living in Germany. He also asked the FRG Government to support the idea of allowing those Vietnamese going to

Germany under governmental labor cooperation agreements signed with the former German Democratic Republic to continue to stay in Germany if they wish to do so.

Direct Hanoi-Paris Air Link Flights Inaugurated

BK0605081692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] A direct air link between Hanoi and Paris was officially established last Saturday [2 May] with the arrival of the first weekly flight Boeing 747 by Air France. Until now the only regulaar flights between Hanoi and Europe had been provided by the Soviet former airline Aeroflot.

Air France is the only Western airline to have maintained regular flights to Ho Chi Minh City in the south since 1975. Regular routes to the same city have been set up recently by a number of Asian companies and the German Lufthansa.

Netherlands To Help Upgrade HCMC Airport

BK0605080492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The Netherlands will finance and cooperate with Vietnam in upgrading Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City. This was made public by the Dutch minister for Foreign Trade, Ms Yvonne Van Rooy, during her recent trip to Vietnam. According to plans, the airport can receive 5 million passengers by 1998. At present it cannot afford 900,000 pasengers [as heard].

Czech Envoy Holds Reception on National Day

BK0605162992 Hanoi VNA in English 1536 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 6—Ambassador of Czech and Slovakia to Vietnam Mr. Jan Gonzor, gave a reception here this evening on the national day of the Federal Republic (May 8).

Among those present were Minister of Light Industry Dang Vu Chu and Assistant To Foreign Minister Le Duc Cang.

Ambassador Jan Gonzor and Minister Dang Vu Chu raised toasts to the consolidation and development of the long-standing friendship and cooperation between the two countries for the interest of each country, for peace and development the world over.

Vo Chi Cong Receives Cuban Foreign Minister

BK0705162592 Hanoi VNA in English 1511 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 7—State Council President Vo Chi Cong received here this afternoon Cuba's Foreign Minister Isidorc Malmierca who is on an official visit to Vietnam.

Also present at the reception were Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Cuban Ambassadress to Vietnam Tania Maceira.

Speaking at the reception, Foreign Minister Malmierca highly appreciated Vietnam's consistent solidarity, friendship, and cooperation with Cuba, as well as its experiences in the struggle for national liberation and construction.

For his part President Vo Chi Cong expressed his belief in the further consolidation and development of the friendly relations and cooperation between the two parties, governments, and peoples in the interests of each country, and for peace, cooperation, security, and social progress.

Cuban Friendship Delegation Visits SRV 1-6 May

BK0705160792 Hanoi VNA in English 1502 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 7—A delegation from the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Other Peoples (ICAP) headed by its president, Mr. Sergio Corrieri, paid a visit here from May 1-6.

While here the delegation compared notes with its Host-the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Association. It was received by Hong Ha, secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee, who highly praised ICAP for its contributions to friendship among nations.

The Cuban delegation paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum. It also called at several educational and medical institutions in Hanoi and in the neighboring province of Hoa Binh.

Vehicle Assembly Venture With ROK Reported

BK0705081292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] On 29 April, a spokesman of the South Korean Daewoo Corporation said that the corporation will take part in joint ventures with Vietnam this year to assemble vehicles and industrial machinery. In May, the corporation will begin the construction of a vehicle assembly plant in Hanoi under an agreement signed in early April.

Daewoo will provide 60 percent of the total capital of $6 million for building this factory. The corporation spokesman said the factory will begin operation in early 1993 with an annual production output of more than 400 vehicles and trucks.

Country To Take Part in Taiwan Trade Fair

BK0605091092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Vietnam will take part in the international trade fair in Taiwan in August this year and this is the first time Vietnamese importers and exporters are to display their goods at the fair. Vietnam's exhibits are expected to be only farm produce, fine arts and handicraft items, and several other lines of consumer goods.

Joint Contract With India To Grow Corn Signed

BK0605080292 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] On 23 April, in Hanoi as agreed upon by the agriculture and food industry ministry, the central crop seeds company No. 1 and Bioseed Genetics International Company of India signed a contract for a joint venture to grow corn in Vietnam.

Attending the signing ceremony were agriculture and food industry minister Nguyen Cong Tan and representatives of concerned agencies, ministries, and sectors. The joint Vietnam-India venture to grow corn seeds will open new prospect for developing corn plants throughout the country. Vietnamese and Indian scientists will promptly develop this venture in order to rapidly bring about economic results for both Vietnam and India.

Reportage of Visit by Indonesian Parliamentarians

Radio Reports Start of Visit

BK0605063892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] An Indonesian parliamentary delegation headed by Mr Mohamad Kharis Suhud, chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly, arrived in Hanoi on Sunday [3 May] starting an official visit to Vietnam.

Mr Mohamad Kharis Suhud is accompanied by many MPs in charge of important economic factors of the Indonesian Parliament. Upon their arrival the Indonesdian guests were received by Vietnamese National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao and had contacts with representatives of the national assembly's commitees.

The Indonesian parliamentary delegation's visit is taking place in the wake of visits made by high officials of Southeast Asian nations to Vietnam. April witnessed brisk activities in the relations between other countries in the region. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, accompanied by many government officials and more than 100 businessmen, visited Hanoi where he asserted Malaysia's close ties with Vietnam and said that Malaysia is ready to share its experiences with Vietnam in her national construction. Following this event, Hanoi received Singapore's former prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, a legendary figure of Asia in the 1970s. During his meeting with Vietnamese leaders, Mr Lee expressed his resolve to broaden cooperation with Vietnam in several fields.

The current visit to Vietnam by the Indonesian parliamentary delegation all the more proves the growing ties between Vietnam and other countries in Southeast Asia.

Cong, Kiet Receives Delegation

BK0605163992 Hanoi VNA in English 1543 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 6—President of the State Council Vo Chi Cong and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet separately received here today a visiting delegation of the Indonesian National Assembly led by Mohamad Kharis Suhud, chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly and speaker of the house of representatives.

Present at these events were Deputy Head of the National Assembly's Commission for External Relations Tran Van Phac and Indonesian Ambassador To Vietnam Juwana.

During his reception President Vo Chi Cong welcomed Mr. Suhud's visit as a fine manifestation of the relations between the two countries. He said that Vietnam wished that the multi-form relations reached in President Suharto's visit to Vietnam as well as Chairman Vo Van Kiet's visit to Indonesia would be constantly developed in the interests of each country.

While meeting with Chairman Vo Van Kiet, Mr. Suhud informed the chairman of the results of the talks between the two countries' National Assembly delegation held in Hanoi on May 4. He thanked the Vietnamese Government for its support to Indonesia in the implementation of peaceful initiatives on the Cambodia issue. He welcomed the success of the recent session of the Eighth National Assembly of Vietnam particularly its adoption of the country's 1992 constitution.

He noted with satisfaction that the fine traditional friendship between Vietnam and Indonesia has made a new step of development and is playing an important role in strengthening peace, friendship, stability and development in the region and the world. He stressed that the situation in the world might change but the relations between Vietnam and Indonesia will always be fine.

He reiterated Indonesia's support for Vietnam's accession to ASEAN. For his part, Chairman Vo Van Kiet welcomed Mr. Suhud's visit to Vietnam as an important contribution to strengthening the friendship between the two countries. He thanked the Indonesian Government and people for their support for and assistance to the Vietnamese people.

Chairman Kiet expressed his joy at the development of the traditional friendly relations and multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries and wished that the two legislative bodies would further strengthen their ties and broaden their cooperation in the interests of each country for peace friendship, stability, cooperation and development in the region.

Delegation Leaves for HCMC

BK0705161592 Hanoi VNA in English 1509 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 7—The Indonesian National Assembly delegation led by Mohamad Kharis Suhud, chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly and speaker of the House of Representatives, left here for Ho Chi Minh City [HCMC] this morning to continue its official Vietnam visit beginning May 3.

Indonesian ambassador to Vietnam Juwana accompanied the delegation. It was seen off at the the government guesthouse by National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao.

While in Hanoi, the Indonesian guests paid homage to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, and visited the Ho Chi Minh Museum and the Army Museum. They also called at the Tan Quang agricultural cooperative, My Van district, Hai Hung province.

The delegation exchanged views with the leadership of the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Tourism, Agriculture and Food Industry, and Heavy Industry, and the Hanoi People's Council on issues of common concern to contribute to acceleration the cooperation for mutual interests between the people of Indonesia and Vietnam.

Hanoi-Singapore Air Link Opens

BK0605065892 Hanoi VNA in English 0654 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 7—An A310-300 of Singapore Airlines arrived at Noi Bai Airport yesterday afternoon, beginning a weekly direct service between Changi [Singapore Airport] and Hanoi. This is the second air route from Singapore to Vietnam. The first from Changi to Tan Son Nhat Airport in Ho Chi Minh City started February 18, 1992. Singapore Airlines (SIA) will fly twice weekly from Changi to Hanoi and vice versa in addition to four services a week from Changi to Tan Son Nhat and vice versa by Vietnam Airlines and SIA.

Liberation Day Commemoration Services Held

BK0505162792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Today, apart from commemorating the 17th anniversary of the complete liberation of the south and international day—1 May—together with the people throughout the country, the party committee, people's council, people's committee, and Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee of Quang Tri held a ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of the liberation of the province. Attending were Comrade Nguyen Quyet, vice chairman of the State Council; Comrade Tran Hoan, minister of culture, information, and sports; and representatives from the Lao Province of Savannakhet, as well as from many ministries, organs, and sectors at the central level and in the province.

Addressing the ceremony, Comrade Nguyen Duc Khoan, member of the Party Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee, recalled the indomitable tradition, revolutionary offensive will, and spirit of solidarity of the army and people throughout the country in the struggle for national independence and freedom, in which Quang Tri was one of the bloodiest and fiercest battlefields. He said:

Cadres and the people of all nationalities in Quang Tri are proud of and bear in mind the services rendered to the province by their compatriots throughout the country. Since Quang Tri was liberated, with assistance and encouragement from the entire country, cadres and people of all nationalities in the province have been able to overcome numerous difficulties and achieve encouraging results in socioeconomic development. In the past, Quang Tri had to ask the central government for grain supply. Now the province is capable of producing not only enough grain for local consumption, but also for reserve and export.

The province has planted 25,000 hectares of forests, hundreds of millions of trees in separate areas, and thousands of hectares of rubber, coffee, pepper, and other industrial crops. This year Quang Tri is giving priority to developing agriculture, forestry, and fishing and combining industry with processing in order to stabilize its socioeconomic situation.

On this occasion, Quang Tri arranged for various delegations to visit and lay wreaths at the Truong Son, Dong Ha, and Quang Tri cemeteries.

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